

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 28, 2011

The Honorable Council of the City of Evansville met on regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2011 in the City Council Chambers, Room 301 Civic Center Complex, Evansville, Indiana, with President B.J. Watts presiding. The following business was conducted.

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript. Audiotapes of this meeting are on file in the City Clerk's Office.

ROLL CALL:

Present: M^cGinn, Bredhold, Robinson, Friend, Adams, John, Walker, and Watts.

Absent: Mosby

There being eight (8) members present and one (1) member absent and eight (8) members representing a quorum, I hereby declare this session of the Common Council officially open.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This evening the pledge of allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop No. 326.

Fellow Councilmen and those in the audience, welcome to the February 28, 2011 meeting of the Common Council.

TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Claire Ehrensbeck, Claire Alvey, Nick Carey, Tommy Graber, Bryant Dawson, Jenna Martin, Rachel Athippozhy, Dorothy English, Kristen Loehr, Sarah Crowson, Caleb Heiman, Teresa Scheller.

COUNCIL ATTORNEY

John Hamilton is City Council Attorney this evening.

SERGEANT AT ARMS

This evening there is no Sergeant at Arms.

READING AND AMENDMENT OF MINUTES

Is there a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting of the Common Council as written?

Councilman John moved and Councilman Friend seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held February 14, 2011.

Voice vote. So ordered.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

IN YOUR FEBRUARY 25th PACKET:

*City Council Agenda for February 28, 2011 meeting.

*Committee Meeting Schedule.

*Minutes from the February 14, 2011 City Council Meeting.

*Legal Aid Society Report for December, 2010 and January, 2011.

*Weights & Measures Monthly Report January 16, 2011 – February 15, 2011.

ON YOUR DESK THIS EVENING:

*Resolution C-2011-5.

*A letter from Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center.

Councilman Friend moved and Councilwoman Bredhold seconded the motion to receive, file and make these reports and communications a part of the minutes of the meeting. Voice vote. So ordered.

CONSENT AGENDA

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-5 **FINANCE** **FRIEND**

A Preliminary Resolution of the City of Evansville Declaring an Economic Revitalization Area for Property Tax Phase-In for Redevelopment/Rehabilitation of Real Property and for the Acquisition and Installation of New Manufacturing Equipment (Mead Johnson & Company)

Councilwoman Robinson moved and Councilman John seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as written. Voice vote. So ordered.

CONSENT AGENDA

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-2 **FINANCE** **FRIEND**

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming authorizing and approving an amendment to the contract between the city of Evansville and Chauffeurs, Teamsters, and Helpers Local Union No. 215 January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012

RESOLUTION C-2011-3 **FINANCE(FRIEND)** **ROBINSON/ADAMS**

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana regarding transfer or exchange of property with Vanderburgh County

COMMITTEE REPORT:

FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN FRIEND

Councilman Friend: Mr. President, your Finance Committee met this evening to hear Resolutions C-2011-2 and C-2011-3 and they come forward with a (do pass/do not pass) recommendation

Councilman John moved and Councilman Friend seconded the motion to adopt the committee reports and move these resolutions to Third Reading.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-2 **FINANCE** **FRIEND**

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming authorizing and approving an amendment to the contract between the city of Evansville and Chauffeurs, Teamsters, and Helpers Local Union No. 215 January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012

Councilman Friend moved and Councilman Walker seconded the motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-2 and call the roll.

Roll Call:

Ayes: McGinn, Bredhold, Robinson, Friend, Adams, John, Walker, and Watts.

Absent: Mosby

There being eight (8) ayes and zero (0) nays, Resolution C-2011-2 is hereby declared adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-3 FINANCE(FRIEND) ROBINSON/ADAMS

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana regarding transfer or exchange of property with Vanderburgh County

Councilwoman Bredhold moved and Councilman John seconded the motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-3 and call the roll.

Roll Call:

Ayes: McGinn, Bredhold, Robinson, Friend, Adams, John, Walker, and Watts.

Absent: Mosby

There being eight (8) ayes and zero (0) nays, Resolution C-2011-3 is hereby declared adopted.

RESOLUTION DOCKET

RESOLUTION C-2011-4(DOCKET) McGINN, WALKER, ADAMS, BREDHOLD

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana requesting reallocation of Youth Sports Funds to Parks Maintenance

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING REALLOCATION
OF YOUTH SPORTS FUNDS TO PARKS MAINTENANCE**

WHEREAS, the budget for the City of Evansville for the year 2011 currently shows that the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) has been allocated to a program commonly known as Youth Sports, and the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) has been allocated to a program commonly known as Youth Leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Council has received complaints that maintenance in local Parks facilities needs improvement, including a complaint at Sunset Park, and that graffiti and litter plague another Parks facility, The Pigeon Creek Greenway; and

WHEREAS, the level of maintenance in our City Parks is in part due to lack of sufficient funds to employ additional personnel to maintain said Parks and lack of sufficient funds to purchase necessary supplies and equipment to maintain said Parks; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of the City's Parks is important to the taxpayers of the City of Evansville and should take precedence and have priority over the aforementioned Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs and that the funds in the amount of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) should be utilized for the employment of part time employees to clean, repair and maintain our Parks and for the purchase of materials and supplies to maintain our Parks; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Common Council of the City of Evansville to utilize the aforementioned sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) for the employment of part time Parks employees and for the purchase of materials and supplies to maintain our Parks and that said sum should be transferred to the Parks Department for these stated purposes rather than be granted to the Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs and that Sunset Park and the Pigeon Creek Greenway be the first facilities to benefit from these funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Evansville as follows; The City Council recommends and requests that the City Administration take the following actions:

1. That no funds be granted or utilized for Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs for the year 2011.
2. That the funds allocated to Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the sole and express purpose of employing part time employees and for the purchase of materials and supplies for the maintenance of various Park's facilities and that Sunset Park and the Pigeon Creek Greenway be the first Park's facilities to benefit from these funds.
3. That the balance of the funds be utilized to maintain other Park's facilities as determined by the Staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
4. That the Mayor of the City of Evansville, the Board of Parks Commissioners, the staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Controller of the City of Evansville do what is necessary to achieve these purposes.
5. That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Parks Commissioners.

DISCUSSION:

President Watts: Are there questions by members of council?

Councilman John: Mr. President, I did request that our Controller be here this evening, and I noticed that the president of the Parks Board is here as well. Once this was brought up, I think it was important that we start looking if there are any funds available without depriving these two particular areas, which one promotes physical activity by youth and the other, leadership. I would like to hear if you have been able to maybe come up with money somewhere else or how that particular parks fund looks as far as supplying additional funds for maintenance and whether or not the administration is willing to ask for additional appropriation and spend it since it does have to come from you.

Jenny Collins: Jenny Collins, City Controller. We do have funds available in the Parks Fund. It could be allocated to this for this purpose. In total, the City's General Fund and Parks Fund, we approximately have a 6 million dollar cash balance, which is less than 10 percent of our actual budget. We've tried to keep that balance because of all the cuts that we keep getting imposed on the states, which is property tax caps. There were lots of unknowns on those fields. Recently we just heard about the 610 million dollars which the state has come back and said they

have overpaid the local....we're not sure how that is going to affect Vanderburgh County and the local governments here. So, there are reasons that we withhold our cash for emergencies, such as, you know, we're not sure what our funding is going to look like next year. Or during that year we may have a public safety issue, or we may have disaster so that is the reason we try to preserve some cash balances, but I think that the administration is willing to look at the Parks Fund and see if that is something we could fund through the Parks Fund or maybe look at something that we may have budgeted for that we might not need in order to transfer the funds in order to take care of the maintenance. I think the administration's wish is to work with the city council. If we are not aware of the problems, then we can't fix them. So we are here to say that we will work with them. Steve Bohleber, the Parks Board President, is here and I think he may have some comments.

Councilman John: Well the reason I wanted you here is because, like I said, it has to begin with you, and if the funds are available, are you willing to request them so that they can be spent for that. I'm just real reluctant to take and do away with a program that we've been doing for several years that encourages those things that I previously mentioned. And if you can, what kind of dollars are you talking about. I know we discuss it every budget hearing, about the lack of man power within the parks department, the lack of funding for maintenance, and it doesn't seem to change a whole bunch, but this year you did, as I recall, put some additional funding in?

Jenny Collins: We did, in the maintenance. We were aware of the mowing, maybe not getting it done as it needed to be, so we did add in the parks maintenance fund enough funds for two part-time employees to work 32 hours a week. With the salary and the taxes, it was roughly \$14,000 that we did add to the parks maintenance budget to address the issue. Now is that enough, I'm not sure, but we did add money to that budget.

President Watts: Councilman John, if I could piggyback, I would say that for this \$50,000, and I will agree with Curt, there is no doubt we need additional part-time maintenance there. I can't imagine taking it from these Youth Sports Grants. We get hundreds of thousands of dollars of volunteer time based on this \$50,000 that we give out. Evansville Junior Football League on Barker, I've seen Golfmoor's fields. They have two fields on each side of Helfrich Park. You drive by there any night, there are parents out there mowing. That's stuff we don't have to maintain. They buy the mowers with this money that we give them, they buy the gas, and their people do it for free. EJFL and Howell Park, I mean that's a huge piece of property that is maintained strictly by volunteers, and all that we do is give them a couple thousand dollars to say "hey, good luck. I hope this helps with your gas and your lawn mowers", which doesn't go very far and the benefit we get, outside of helping these kids, you know, giving scholarships to kids that can't afford to play in some of these sports and wouldn't have the opportunity to play if we take this away from them, I mean you get tenfold the work done for the dollars that we spend. I can't imagine taking it from here, but I do hope we can find some money somewhere.

Jenny Collins: And we're willing to work with Council to come up with some solutions.

Councilman McGinn: You don't have a finance ordinance here to present today to tell us which fund additional money will come from?

Jenny Collins: I wasn't prepared because I didn't know of the issues until we heard of the resolution that was coming before council tonight. This is the first that we were notified of it,

but I do feel there is sufficient funds in the parks cash balance that could take and fix this problem without taking it from other organizations.

Councilman McGinn: The 6 million dollar cash balance, that's projected throughout the end of year, is that correct?

Jenny Collins: And that is not just the parks, but the general fund.

Councilman McGinn: The general fund. So you're projecting the 6 million dollar cash balance over the period of the next nine months. A lot of things could happen within nine months. Is local option income tax going to come in as predicted in the budget? Do you know?

Jenny Collins: Not to my knowledge. We already budgeted a 20 percent decrease just due to the economy for the local option income tax. But now with what we've learned from the State, that they have over paid us, I think for 2011 we'll get at least the 20 percent less than we budgeted, and I think last year we received 14 million. I think we budgeted somewhere around 11 million this year. Over the next three years, once the State comes up with the actual estimate that the local governments in Vanderburgh County are going to be responsible for, we won't know what that cut is. They're saying by the summer that we should know and then they'll spread that out over three years. I think it 2012, 2013, and 2014 where we will have to pay that back through our county option income tax.

Councilman McGinn: They'll reduce those payments. So you are expecting, based on everything that you have heard, you planned on 11 million coming in of local option income tax and are we still on track to receive 11 million?

Jenny Collins: That is correct. I have not heard anything other than that.

Councilman John: If for some reason this is either tabled or does not pass; can you assure us that there will be a finance ordinance coming forward with at least this amount in it?

Jenny Collins: If that's what council's request is, I will bring it forward.

Councilman John: And what would be the time table, the First Reading would be on the 14th andI don't know if it would be the 21st or the 28th. So the funds would be available shortly after the 28th?

President Watts: Which would give them sufficient time to hire summer help.

Councilwoman Robinson: Would it be for the \$60,000 or how much would it be?

Jenny Collins: Well that would be up to council's recommendation.

Councilman McGinn: The purpose of this is to put \$60,000 into part-time parks maintenance and supplies. If it can come from cash balances as opposed to these programs, I think we're all happy.

Jenny Collins: I would need to know, I'm not sure how you came up with your figures, but I would like to talk to you or whoever to determine these fields because they are different line items. You know part-time salaries is a 41 account and you know materials, whatever the need is.

Councilman McGinn: Here is how I came up with it. There is no secret about it. I have been to Dr. Troost's presentation at the Parks Board. I've been to the parks. I've seen the graffiti. I've been hearing this for over two years now, and I was head of a department and I know the rules, and I know there is no money for various things and you rob from Peter to pay Paul, but first and foremost our priorities are to provide basic governmental services with our tax dollars, and parks maintenance and that type of thing is part of it. No one is doing anything. Everybody's talking about how they don't have any money. So I figured I could catch some people's attention by doing a resolution where I knew there was \$60,000, and it appears to have served its purpose, because really no one was listening to anyone until tonight. I mean, that's my own personal feeling. This group's been listening, but...

Councilman John: Why didn't you come from the zoo? (laughter) Just kidding.

Councilman McGinn: I spent an hour going through the wants and needs of the zoo too. That may be the next one. If \$60,000 is a minimum to put into these parks that benefit the entire community and make our front door better, I'm thrilled to death if you will do a finance ordinance taking it out of general funds, and we can keep these programs, because I'm not going to argue with anybody about how good and worthwhile these programs are, but it sure caught your attention.

Councilman John: What I liked after my discussions with Jenny was there is more than sufficient funds within the parks fund itself, and they're limited on what they can be spent for, so what better to use it for than the purpose of this.

President Watts: I'm a little confused how you say you want to take the money from them, and then talk about how worthwhile the projects are. I guess that's where I got confused.

Councilman McGinn: Well, part of it is, this is a tough economy. I mean, you know 9.6 percent of this state, they are out of work. There are people in this room right here that just paid 3 dollars and 40 cents for a gallon of gas and because of that, they're not going to a movie this week, they're not buying their kids a pizza, and it's time to tighten everybody's belt and the first programs that I believe should be tightened are the ones that do not benefit the entire community as a whole and are the ones that are not providing...I take that back, this does help the community as a whole, but those that do not provide basic government services, the police, the fire, the streets, the parks and recreation, and the safety. I think those have to be prioritized. That's our sworn duty, to provide those services. If it comes to the time where we have start cutting, then we have to preserve those and everything else beyond is really subject to the scalpel. That's it.

President Watts: And I would say, and I'll stand by it, I would always fight against taking this away because I assure you, you will create more than \$60,000 worth of work that's done by volunteers and stuff now if you take the money away from all these programs.

Councilman McGinn: But I think the vast majority of those people would still volunteer if they didn't have a \$2,000 grant or whatever for this year. I sat through that last year and I know those people. They're going to do it. If they have to tighten their belt this year, they'll be here. They'll be a little leaner, and hopefully the economy will be back and so they're back next year, but I don't think we're going to lose those people. That's not why they do it, you know.

President Watts: Oh, I know.

Councilman Adams: The comment that I would make is that these people who are very worthwhile, this \$60,000 goes to, I think some wonderful projects, but they were warned a year ago that this might happen. I guess those of us who are sponsoring this are looking for movement. We're looking for something to really be done. The 6 and half million in the general fund has to cover the fire and police, which if you like it or not, still takes precedent over the parks, but the parks are right in there as part of the general fund, and it's a mess. You have to do something and everybody cries wolf, everybody talks about things, and I still haven't heard any hard data about some of these 6.5 million bucks that are going to be shuffled over to get the parks cleaned up so we don't have needles in kids' hands. So if we're going to table it, I'd still like to have a motion about how you come back and find \$100,000 that we can use to clean up the parks.

Councilman John: It's alright with me, but understand there are two separate funds. There is a general fund which has its own tax rate and then there is the parks fund which has its own tax rate. The parks fund can only be used in the parks, so that's where these funds would be coming from, not from the general fund that can go to police, fire...

Councilman Adams: The \$60,000 that we are giving away to people and they were warned a year ago, and we do have some tight things we have to come up or it's going to get tighter. You have very applicably described what we are talking about. These are tough times. All over the country people are having to cut stuff, and this is volunteer stuff. I love kids. I love sports. But the bottom line is, this is a tough decision. We've got to start somewhere.

Councilwoman Bredhold: I have to say, Jenny, when you say that you've saved these balances for a reason, and those reasons have to do with the state coming in and saying "oh, we gave you too much money. We're going to take some back." Or an emergency, I think that's money we should have there.

Jenny Collins: We have to be good fiscal stewards. I mean, that's our job.

Councilwoman Bredhold: Absolutely. I think that's an argument for looking at the kind of programs that are very worthy programs but aren't vital.

Councilman McGinn: How much is in the parks budget as a surplus? The 6 million is a combination of parks and the general fund? How much is just in parks?

Jenny Collins: It's roughly 3 million dollars.

Councilman McGinn: Okay, and other than emergencies, if \$60,000 comes out of...

Jenny Collins: But you could still come before you and transfer in the event that we need it That would be up to council to do that kind of transfer also. Again, my job is to be a good fiscal steward, and that's what I'm trying to do. Like I said, that is less than 10 percent of our annual budget.

Councilwoman Bredhold: And you have been a good fiscal steward because all of us know the sorts of things that other cities in Indiana have had to do and the sort of layoffs that they've seen in their security services and that. Evansville has fared very well in comparison.

Jenny Collins: I agree with you.

Councilman Adams: Well, I think the days of us being all things to all people are over.

President Watts: But I hope the youth programs aren't the first place we look to chuck overboard.

Councilwoman Bredhold: Where would we look?

Councilwoman Robinson: Okay, the resolution has \$60,000 with a concentration in Sunset Park and also the Greenway. Can we have a \$100,000 so that we can clean up all the parks?

Jenny Collins: I would need to go back and talk with the other city department heads, such as parks...and like I said, I don't know what the requests are, how much is for where and how many employees.

Councilwoman Robinson: I think he just wanted to hire part-time employees to clean up the parks.

Jenny Collins: But also, he said materials and things like that.

President Watts: Can we make our request \$100,000 and obviously, we would just approve the \$100,000. You would know what the appropriate line items would be.

Jenny Collins: Based on the need.

Councilwoman Robinson: That's where Dan Schall would come in.

Councilman McGinn: But you can't just hire a bunch of part-time helpers if they don't have paint or they don't have paint brushes. They don't have rakes.

President Watts: We're asking, as Connie just stated, for \$100,000 to be put in there. You will work with the department heads to dole out what percentage goes where. Would you like to see that before we vote on it is my question to members of council.

Councilman McGinn: I would like to table this pending Jenny coming in two weeks with a finance ordinance showing the allocation of \$100,000 from parks general fund to maintenance and supplies for work in our parks. We'll table this until such time as that's done.

Councilwoman Bredhold: I'd like to question the figure, and that's because the resolution jumped from \$60,000 to \$100,000 and it's just sort of a round number and that's wonderful, but do we want to base it on actual conversations with Dan Schall and the parks department about what they need.

Councilwoman Robinson: We can, but I don't think \$60,000 is enough. When you say \$60,000, you're talking about Sunset and Greenway. What about the other parks that the other council members are responsible for. I'm not going to be selfish and just say Sunset. If we had that much money in the parks fund, why not take \$100,000.

Councilman McGinn: And Sunset and Greenway were picked because you see them when you come downtown and the Greenway is in brochures and people are invited to come and walk on our Greenway and then the rest was after those were fixed if it's enough, then

Councilwoman Robinson: Well then fix the neighborhood parks because you can't see them when you come downtown.

President Watts: I'm not sure how we table this with the vote coming on the 14th for the two programs. If there is a suggestion, by all means, John...

John Hamilton: I'm not sure what the question is. This is a non-binding resolution. You can table it by majority vote for any length of time you want.

President Watts: The meetings are set for the two subcommittees (Youth Sports and Youth Leadership) for March 9th and March 14th and those will come....

Councilman John: You're not going to give the money away. You're just going to hear and make proposals.

President Watts: If the meeting is the 14th and we only have First Reading on the 14th for the ordinance that she is going to bring. The \$100,000 will have First Reading but it will not have been voted on by the time that we approve this grant money is what I want everybody to understand.

Councilman McGinn: That's right. The full council will meet on the 14th.

President Watts: Right. We hear both of those and that money will have been spent, we have a First Reading, but it will not have been approved yet.

Councilman Friend: Mr. President, if it is a unanimous vote, can we not suspend the rules and hear on all three readings?

President Watts: Yes, we could do that. We could have a unanimous vote we could have both on the 14th. When she brings it, we could have all three readings on the 14th.

Jenny Collins: I just have to have 10 days to publish before the 14th, so I have 14 days.

Councilman McGinn: I'd like to table this.

Councilwoman Robinson: I'd like to thank Dr. Troost for bringing this to our attention, and I'm sorry this unfortunate accident with your daughter had to bring it to our attention, but I think we all have had concerns about the parks department and the maintenance and that's the reason we like people to come to city council and make us aware of what's going on.

Dr. Neil Troost: I'm intrigued to say the least that suddenly these dollars are found available. I have been dealing with this for about four months, and what I have been told repeatedly and clearly is there is no money, there is no money. The maintenance issues are unfortunate, which I am here to speak about at length a little bit later. I'm glad that Mr. Bohleber is here, because he will, I'm sure, repeat what he has said to me previously that there was no money in the budget. Now finally this resolution has been proposed and suddenly there is money. I will just stick to the word intrigued. There is a big difference between these sports programs and the basic being of the parks being for every citizen of this town, not only the parks that you see, but the parks out in some of the neighborhoods that you don't see and those kids deserve basic safe facilities as well. And yes, I think the sports programs are great, but that is cream compared to letting the facilities that we've put up for everyone in this community rot. And that is what has happened. The parks are in a crisis. This is not something that would be nice if we got to it. They are in crisis. And when you are in a crisis, you back down to the basics, fire and police of course. But I think the parks in this town need immediate and urgent attention. I do not like the characterization of his number of \$60,000 as kind of out of the air. I don't even know if you realize how prescient you were in choosing that number. I've had conversations with Dan Schall. The entire budget for seasonal help for all the parks, 65 parks, 2,600 acres, is \$37,000. That's it. They hire 3 or 4 people. That's the summer man. That's what you get. That is atrocious. So a number like \$60,000 would triple your summer staff. I think that's pretty reasonable, to think of all those grounds and beefing up the staff of 3 or 4 to 10 or 12, I think that makes perfect sense. I think that is a reasonable number. Now we hear \$100,000. My God, it's almost like we're going to take this problem seriously. I think that's fantastic, but what I would like to see today is this: As a good faith effort to show that we are not going back off of this, I'd like to see you pass that today, and if there is this money in the budget, well then great. Then you can backfill in the hole that we've created in the sports program, and that way the city has made itself accountable for that loss, because if we table it today and it floats along and floats along, I'm sure there will be a reason in two weeks that we may have to delay it further. What I would like to see is action. I've been talking for four months. I would like to see something happen. I applaud Dan McGinn heartily for pushing forth this resolution. I think there are people here who want to see it happen. Let's do something. Let's actually do something today. Let's vote it through. If there is money, great, then you have nothing to worry about. The folks in the sports programs don't have anything to worry about, but people have got to realize that if there is a real problem, you don't get to hide over here and you get your sports program when the parks in total are falling apart. I think it is unreasonable. Those sports programs will continue. They will not fall apart without this money. I agree with that. But the parks are falling apart. Underfunded does not touch the state of these parks right now. I would like to see the council stand up, make a motion, do something, and demand something in part from this government. If there is money, great, then there is nothing to worry about, but I'd like to see something happen tonight. Thank you.

President Watts: I have a motion by Councilman McGinn. Does that still stand?

Councilman McGinn: Yes, with a motion to table it. If in fact we're not here with a finance ordinance, will this body stand up and pass this resolution?

President Watts: I can't support taking the money from there. I'm all for finding money, but I don't think youth programs are the place to take it from. That's my two cents.

John Hamilton: It can come to a vote, but it is a non-binding resolution. Even if you pass it tonight, it would not be in action until someone came here with a finance ordinance which they would not be mandated or required to do.

Councilman McGinn: Is there a majority that would vote to unfund these sports programs if we don't have a resolution.

Councilman John: I'll vote for the \$100,000 at the next meeting, especially if we can do it unanimously and do it in all three readings in the same night.

Councilman McGinn: I've worked with Jenny and known her for 10 years. If she's going to prepare a finance ordinance and find where it is and say she's going to be here, I trust her. I believe Jenny. My motion is to table Resolution C-2011-4 for two weeks.

Berniece Turmenstein: My name is Berniece Turmenstein, 1636 E. Blackford Avenue. The idea of hiring students to pick up and clean up the parks is a good idea, but why can't we have days designated that volunteers would clean up the parks, just like we do on the riverfront. Then have extra money that could go toward materials and things to fix the leaky roof in Wesselman Park, Shelter 1. I was there last summer. We had to move our tables three times in order to get out of the leaks. And also, July 4th, 2009, there was a tour of the James Bethel Gresham Home and I think that is such a valuable thing for our city and our nation. I was really taken back when we had the tours. Here we had furniture that dated back to the era of that period. Here was this sofa that a broken spring and the spring was touching the floor. Here we have all these valuables articles that have appeared in the paper, pictures of his burial and different things, his service. Those were in a cabinet in the dining room, and they are becoming curled and discolored. I think they're priceless, and I think we should be doing something about these things. I wondered how much of our money that we pay in property taxes goes to the parks. I went back to my property taxes to 2004 and there they listed twelve taxing authorities and they always listed parks. In 2009, the parks did not appear there anymore, so I called down to the auditor's office and asked questions. I was told at one point that the parks came under special district. Another one said that wasn't true, it's under the city. So we really don't know, as taxpayers, where our money goes unless we find out.

President Watts: The four or five parks that I can speak of on the west side; there are always work days with whatever groups that will come in and use it. Great idea. I know that the parents come in and I'm certain that's true city wide. I know when the season starts, there are work days for every facility that is all volunteer work and some of the things that they purchase with these youth sports grants like a lawn mower, weedeater, or rake, and all of that labor is volunteer.

Berniece Turmenstein: With all this, hiring the two part-time employees, we felt the park is now in pretty good shape. But how long is that going to last? I would like to see the park rangers brought back. (Applause) And also, at one point you said maybe we can solve this problem by adding additional lights in the park. Well, wasn't it some time ago when you said that they were thinking about moving some of the city lights in order to save on money?

President Watts: I think, not removing. The point was, we pay \$190 some dollars for the lights. My thought was to go in and spend money up front to make all of these lights "green" and then go back and re-negotiate with Vectren and say okay, now we're going to pay you \$100 because we're not burning as much electricity. That was what I wanted to see happen. And I think it is still a very viable option to go with all the streets lights that we have and I know there are programs throughout the country where they go in and make them energy efficient and we play a flat rate for those lights now. So if we go in and make those lights energy efficient, we come back and say okay, we spent 3 million dollars up front to make our street lights energy efficient, now were burning electricity, so Vectren, why don't we come back and instead of paying you \$190 per light, let's pay you \$90 per light. And that's where I thought the savings would be.

Berniece Turmenstein: I follow you. I just feel like bringing the park rangers back would be a very good thing because you can go to all that trouble and have these part-time people come in and do work, but I think you're going to be back to the same situation unless there is some overseeing of the parks.

Councilman Friend: If we Wifi certain districts in the city, we could do surveillance with very little cost from the Wifi system and we get our IT up to the 21st century by doing that and we wouldn't need park rangers as much because we could monitor this from this very building. Those parks would become surveillance points for a lot of illegal activity. That would be a big step in the right direction.

President Watts: I certainly have a comfort from the Evansville Police Department. We have one of the finest departments in the country, not just the State of Indiana, and I have no doubt that they keep an eye on them.

Berniece Turmenstein: But aren't they given too much work to do for the manpower that they have?

President Watts: That's not a question for me.

Brenda Bergwitz: Brenda Bergwitz, 3646 Orchard Road. B.J., I'm with you and the parks. Now what exactly is this with the grants that you were talking about earlier with regard to the ball parks and the grants.

President Watts: You mean with work days. Okay, I'll give you two. If you played Golfmoor baseball or if you played football at EJFL, before everything starts they'll come in and probably at the beginning of the season, one time throughout the season, and at the end of the year, aside from the weekly maintenance of mowing the grass and doing.....

Brenda Bergwitz: No, I didn't mean....like the grant money. What does that go to.

President Watts: Oh, the youth sports grants across the city.

Brenda Bergwitz: What is that a guesstimate like total? I've got a reason I'm asking this in just a minute. What does this total when you do this?

President Watts: Fifty Thousand dollars.

Brenda Bergwitz: I might be speaking out of turn, and if I am, I'll apologize, okay. Elections are coming around all the time, every year, every other year or whatever, and I think it's about time the citizens of Evansville, democrats, republican, and independents are always raising money, fund raisers for whoever's running for whatever they're running for, and that would be a good time to really show how they feel about the City of Evansville and donate a little bit of that money toward grants for these kind of things. I don't think it would hurt anybody. Whether you're democrat, republican, or independent, when your running for an office, you're going to try to raise money, you're going to have fund raisers, you know, dinners and this and that. Then people could set aside and say this is something that's really important to our youth. I just think it would be a good idea.

President Watts: I certainly won't speak for everyone up here, but I think every elected official certainly gives to tons of non-profit groups. I can't imagine anyone sitting up here that doesn't agree with you.

Brenda Bergwitz: Thank you. When I do something, I do it 100 percent no matter what party it is, and I'd be willing to help and do that too.

Councilwoman Bredhold: Curt, were you on council when these grants were established? I'm just sort of curious about the generation of this program. You said it was several years back.

President Watts: I want to say it was 1995 and 1996. I know Steve Bagbey

Councilwoman Robinson: Yes.

Councilman John: I think it was on here already when we were elected and we both started in 1996 and they were already established.

President Watts: I believe it was in 1994 or 1995 just in talking with Steve Bagbey because I know that he was a big advocate of it. So it's mid 90s.

Charlene Braker: Charlene Braker, 1700 E. Blackford. I'm just curious. Youth sports I think I understand, probably baseball and football, I assume in Howell Park, but I'm not quite sure that I know what youth leadership would be and in what way is \$10,000 spent on youth leadership.

President Watts: You have to be a student. An example, last year one came in who was earning his Eagle Scout and wanted to create a prayer garden or something in one of the parks and asked for 8 or 9 hundred dollars and he had raised some money as well, but he needed some money to finish what he was creating. Another example is our TAC members, the ones that sit up here. Money goes toward training 60 kids that then go back to the high schools and take what they learn back to students in the high schools. So that money assists them in the training.

Councilman McGinn moved and Councilman John seconded the motion to table Resolution C-2011-4 until March 14, 2011.

Roll Call:

Ayes: M^cGinn, Bredhold, Robinson, Friend, John, Walker, and Watts.

Nays: Adams. For all the volunteer work that is done, which is wonderful, our parks are still a mess. I vote Nay.

There being seven (7) ayes and one (1) nay, Resolution C-2011-4 is hereby tabled until March 14, 2011 City Council Meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There will not be a City Council meeting next Monday, March 7, 2011. The next City Council meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Committee meetings will begin at 5:10 p.m.

President Watts: I have spoken with President Lloyd Winnecke of the County Commissioners, and we have our joint meeting for the council and commissioners to ask questions of the Consolidation Board on March 14th directly after the City Council Meeting on March 14th. I set it for 6:00 p.m. I told Lloyd if we run late, obviously the meeting start time will be late, but we set it for 6:00 p.m. so we can't start it until then. That will just be for city council and county commissioners to ask questions of the board. Then we will host a public hearing on March 30th, and I apologize, I did not get back with Lloyd to see what time that was. I'm going to guess 6:00 p.m. on the 30th as well. As soon as I get the time, I'll get it emailed out to you.

Councilman M^cGinn: Is that one etched in stone. I teach a class on Wednesdays from 6 – 8:45

President Watts: I will ask if we can start early or if we can move it. I know it will be tough with 12 schedules, but I will email Lloyd in the morning and I will copy you on it and propose some dates. But the one that is set is March 14th at 6:00 after council.

Councilman Adams: Mr. President, when would be an appropriate time to exchange our own ideas amongst ourselves in terms of how we feel about this, I think, inadequate proposal.

President Watts: That's the 14th. The 14th will be for the council and the commissioners to literally question the consolidation board and....

John Hamilton: I've been talking to Ted Ziemer the county attorney trying to get an outline to comply with the legal requirements and the thought was that you would have a joint meeting on the 14th to hear the committee and ask your questions of the committee. You would have a joint public hearing, there is a requirement for the bodies to have a joint public hearing to get public comment, and then you could adjourn that public hearing, if you thought one night of a public hearing wasn't enough, you could adjourn that to a second session so to speak.

President Watts: Which is usually what's done.

John Hamilton: Right. And then after you adjourn the public meeting...let's say you have it March 30th and you continue it to April 30th and then you conclude it, then you have 30 days from that date to take action, which is to either accept the plan, modify the plan, reject the plan. I would think at your own separate meeting after you have input from the committee and after you have public comment...I assume at any of those meetings you could exchange your ideas. You wouldn't take action until after..

Councilman Adams: I just know some of us have feelings about this thing and somewhere along the line we need to talk about it.

President Watts: I think the 14th will be that and my guess is we'll meet on the 30th.

Councilman Adams: No, the 14th we're going to hear from the people who put it together. I'd like to hear what the public has to say obviously.

President Watts: And that is the 30th and we can continue that as well to April 30th and then probably have a vote around May 30th.

Councilman McGinn: Will that public meeting be on Channel 9.

President Watts: I can't answer that.

Councilman McGinn: Can anyone find out. That will help if we can't change it from the 30th. I can watch it.

President Watts: We can request it.

Councilman McGinn: Well, I know it's like 200 an hour.

President Watts: Anything else under Miscellaneous Business? I would note Guns and Hoses, I don't know if any of you go or if you have not attended, it's one of the neatest events in the city. Those tickets are on sale now and all the money goes to great, great places, so if you don't have your tickets yet, get out there and get those. It's April 16th.

Bruce Ungetheim: My name is Bruce Ungetheim, 2037 Fleenor Road in Vanderburgh County. I'm also the chairman of We the People. We the People is a group that has met on several occasions to take a look at this consolidation plan and to understand it and try to point out the weaknesses of that. It's very appropriate that you will be meeting with the County Commissioners on the 14th. Last Tuesday night I presented the information that we had put together to that commissioners meeting, and I would like to present that same information to you all here tonight so you'll have that with you if I may.

President Watts: And I would encourage you on the 30th.

Bruce Ungetheim: In the interest of time and the fact that my voice will not last long enough to read all of this, I will not read this. I will simply say that there are ten items that we put together our top ten list, kind of like David Letterman, only a whole lot more serious than he is. I would go back to conclusion page, if you would. It's the second to the last slide on this power-point. Our conclusion is that this plan has a lot of unanswered questions. There is no clear reason why we should continue this effort. I think we got so caught up in whether we could consolidate, that we have not stopped to consider whether we should consolidate, and we strongly request that both the city council and the county commissioners reconsider this consolidation and determine whether it's really best for all the people of Vanderburgh County or just a select few. With that, I would leave that to you. We've run quite a bit longer than you guys had anticipated on other items. We look forward to meeting with you on the various public meeting fronts. I do think

Mr. Adams had it correctly. It's probably going to take more than one public meeting to get through this. There are a lot of issues around this and so I would encourage that we have more than one public meeting to discuss this issue and get the input from the residents of Vanderburgh County so that we can go forward with something, if this goes forward, that we go forward with something that is equitable and just for all the citizens of Vanderburgh County.

Councilman Adams: I've had the opportunity to see some of this and it's very stimulating, very good. Are you suggesting that a referendum not be put to the people of this area?

Bruce Ungetheim: Well, I'm suggesting that if you don't substantially change what you were given by the committee, that it should probably die with you guys. There are a number of issues and I met with a couple of the people today, who pointed out additional issues that are not on there that we may bring up during the public hearings, what you've got in front of you from the stand point of the committee's recommendation is just not acceptable as it stands.

Councilman Adams: Well, I don't think the committee last fall ever thought that it was going to be passed as it finally came out of their committee. I would hope that we would have the opportunity for the people to speak in a referendum, regardless of the format, just because I like the principle of that. I've read some of your stuff and I agree with some of it. I think it's well founded, but again I think it's very, very important that in the fall of 2012 that the people of this area speak on this issue because I think it's so crucial.

Bruce Ungetheim: My recommendation would be don't get in a hurry. The State Statute allows you a year to consider this plan. You were given this plan on the 11th January, so you have until the 11th of January of 2012 to make that decision. Don't make that decision in haste. Take the time to understand what is in it. Take the time to understand how it affects people.

Councilman Adams: Should we wait until after the election?

Bruce Ungetheim: That is up to you, but you have to it really...

Councilman Adams: That's a joke.

Neil Troost – Re: Park Maintenance

I had some comments earlier because of the flow of the meeting. I'm actually on the agenda for the presentation to give.

President Watts: I apologize. I thought when you came up, that was it.

Neil Troost: So, being on the agenda, I would appreciate attempting to do this.

Presentation of slide show by Neil Troost on the condition of the city parks:

Well thank you. I appreciate it. That fact that I'm here is really your fault because as you may remember, I came to city council, presented my problem, I was told to follow through to the parks and I have been to that and I have been told basically that at that point alone they cannot do anything, and that is part of the reason why Dan McGinn has pushed his resolution as he did today, because I think without city council making some pronouncements on this issue, we're not going to get anything done. So I am going to present to you the same presentation I gave to the Parks Board on this issue. What is my story briefly? I guess some of you folks are aware, my daughter is happy with her father charging around town on months and months of a crusade, but

she doesn't want her face shown, so the one thing I have promised her is anonymity in this. I am at Sunset Park East. I lived in this town eight or nine years and it kind of functions as our back yard. We live right near the park. We've always enjoyed it. It was never a source of any anxiety for me. We always thought of that as a nice place to take our kids. And then in that sandbox, one day I was out with my kids and my seven year old comes up and says "Daddy, what are these". I looked down in her hand and she has two hypodermic needles, uncapped. It got better when I said "Did you get stuck with those" and she didn't want to tell me and then she says "yes I did". So now I have a child who was stuck with two used hypodermic needles in a public sand lot in town. So this is what my life is now, worrying about my child getting HIV, hepatitis C. The good news is the infectivity rate is low. Unfortunately, I have no idea how long they have been there. I have no idea how long those viruses have had a chance to degrade if they were there before she got stuck. My wife and I had to deal with the issue of whether or not we treat this child or just wait and hope for the best. The drugs are very toxic. The cure is not as bad as the disease but is not without risk. In children it takes about 18 months to see if they are going to seral convert, so I have a year and a half to see if my child has caught HIV from one of these needles. Needless to say, I became curious about the state of our parks, where I had not been before. I started to look around. I came here, presented my concerns. A little bit of attention was paid to it, and this is a quote from Dan Schall, the parks director at that time when he was asked whether or not needle stick issues had arisen in the past. He was perfectly content to admit that this was not a new phenomenon. I find that concerning. So then I asked the question what is going on. As I was directed to one group and then another, what I find is that there is a lot of people in this town who have been concerned for a long time about the state of our parks. So what do people talk about? What are their concerns: degraded grounds and equipment; stuff that was put in 20 years ago doesn't look so good now; ongoing sanitation issues, trash is not collected. If it's collected, it's not moved away; ongoing criminal activity, the parks being a hub of gang activity, prostitution. These fall right into a safety issue. Drug paraphernalia --- my daughter was stuck with a needle. There is not a free diabetes clinic being run out of the sandbox in Sunset Park. Since then, I have found other needles. Dr. Adams found a needle in my sandbox when he got curious after lack of park activity and went and raked up one himself out of that same sandbox after my daughter has been stuck. There are spoons that people have been using to cook meth---I picked those up myself. There are condoms all over the place. These are universal complaints in our parks system. Lack of proper maintenance on the equipment that once was good. Now swings are missing, rings are missing, slides are cracked, rungs are missing, steel pipes are rusted through. This is a valuable resource in this community for everyone. It is one of the things that when you drive through the town, nice parks make you think well of the area. Poor parks make you think quite another thing, and they do not present a face that I think would attract outside investment in either your life or your work in this community. I am a vehicle for this. I had a personal incident. At this point it's much bigger than me. I could easily make enough noise to get my park fixed and move on. I don't think as a parent or as a physician that would be a responsible approach to what I now am aware of. So I'm not going to go through every list. I encourage all of you to go talk to these civic groups who have dealt with the parks for years and are well aware of the problems, more so than me.

Some specifics: Line Street Church. They have fought the issue of their park for years. They have tried to get into a cooperative agreement with the city. They have felt that while initially there was some good talk, it has not progressed into continued action, and they have continued crime issues and they feel at this point, they are just seen as a nagging presence rather than an issue that the city is actively engaging in.

The Kids Kingdom, which opened with much fanfare. The folks who regularly attempt to maintain that have noticed a sliding away of the great police presence that was initially there. I think the park shows the results. Go walk through today. It's not what it was when it opened.

Trash along the Greenway. Again, the folks who are involved with the Greenway find this to be a repeated problem that has not show improvement.

My child was stuck with a needle. I have yet to dig in and see how many other incidents like that there are. I'm afraid that my child was probably not the first, and I think Dan Schall's comments reflected that.

Graffiti – Every park everywhere, the Greenway, stuff we haven't even finished building is marked. The city does not have the resources to keep up with it, and as anyone who has spent time in a big city knows, the way graffiti works is some breeds more. If you keep it near zero, you keep it under control. When you allow it to begin, they like to mark over each other. It attracts more activity. Graffiti is something that without constant vigilance you lose the battle.

Akin Park had long, long problems with unmaintained equipment. Some of those things have been replaced. Some of those things lay fallow and have not been replaced. The Akin Park folks would be happy to tell you about their ongoing problems.

Broken security lights. The master gardeners have been pulled out of certain areas because they have felt it wasn't even safe enough to go into those parks and attempt to beautify them.

Most of these slides were taken a few days before I gave my presentation just a few weeks ago. Others I've gotten from some folks.

Trash. Poor maintenance of grass cutting and bushes. Rusted equipment. Limbs down. These are things that didn't come up in my little park. These are ongoing complaints that people have gone to the parks department with for years and the parks department is not funded up enough to even deal with these in a forward manner. Graffiti, profanity. I don't want to take my seven year old and have her go down that slide. I don't think that's unreasonable for me to say that. The play areas at the base of the equipment. It's one thing to plant a piece of equipment, it's another thing to maintain that park to keep it safe around it. That's supposed to be a nice maintained sand area, obviously you can see that hasn't happened. That mural that some folks in this town are very proud of --- ongoing graffiti problems. Missing security lights. That's the post of a piece of equipment that's rusted through at Akin Park. That is an entire span of a swingset with eight swings missing. I think it is atrocious.

What is the nature of the problem? If you cannot understand the problem, you cannot combat it. We have 65 parks, 21 special facilities, 3100 acres of space, and that does not include the Greenway that we continue to build into. There are 12 full-time people who are supposedly to be able to fly around and maintain that equipment. That's 11 field workers and that's if no one is out sick, no one is on vacation, and there is also a trial program in the city where employees can go from their department to another and try it for a month, see if they might like another job. So who knows what that number even flexes down to, eight, nine, on the average month. In the 1980's there were 35 full-time park employees for maintenance. We can argue whether the 35 was a little flush. I don't think anyone here could logically argue that 10 is adequate. Decreased seasonable help, they've cut and cut and cut in the budget and the parks has been the place that it

has been cut down to. Three or four folks, that what they get for the season. Like I said, \$37,000 for that entire park system. Security issues: Part of this is maintenance and then the other half is security although they blend together. The Park Ranger program, these were four full-time officers. Their only beat was the parks and it was cancelled purely for budgetary reasons. Those duties were just assigned without any additional police staffing, without any hires. They just okayed the police would get the parks. God bless the police in town. They do a great job. I have done nothing but sing their praises through this. They cannot be everywhere at once. They have their duties. You cannot say "well in addition, we want you to be park security too". I think that is inappropriate. If they are called to an issue, they can respond to it, but to think they have time on their beats to specifically patrol some of these parks that do not have access to the nearest road, I think it is an unfair expectation to be put upon an already stretched police department that does a very good job. So what are the challenges in our parks department? Overwhelming maintenance, understaffed. The question of what are those resources that we can get a hold of to start to improve this situation. A horrible lack of security in our parks and money. I have to come back to the conversation we had earlier today, but I have been told over the last 4 months that I have been pursuing this, that I can rest assured there is not a dollar to be had extra for these parks. But we have done this to ourselves. This is years of budget meetings, this is years of budgets that were passed, this is years of an understanding that there was a maintenance problem that was ignored and not funded up. So we don't have any park money, but we do have money for other things. We have the Front Door Pride project. We're building more homes. We can't even sell the homes we've already built. The McCurdy parking lot; 1.2 million dollars just to get a developer to have interesting thoughts about what to do with the McCurdy Home. I don't know how much the Arena costs, 150 million, 160 million, whatever. And then 17 or 18 million to deal with Roberts Stadium after we move to the Arena. There is money in this town, and now I hear tonight, well low and behold, there is actually secret money that we hid back that we didn't tell you about. Well I think it is time to pull that secret money out or think about these fundings and think about what we're not doing with our parks system. Other people can argue better than me which areas have been most neglected, which areas need the most help. I do not stand here as a foremost authority. I stand here hopefully to get those people a voice so that they will start to listen to and those areas will start to be given the attention they deserve. One thing I will say is that traditionally the way it has worked is that there is absolutely no coordination of all these volunteer assets. My arrows have not shown up on this power point and continue not to, but basically what happens is there are these wonderful folks who put their time in on a volunteer basis and when they see fit and or they have an idea for a project, they go to the parks and they sell that idea, and it is at the discretion of the parks whether they will accept their offer for those efforts. The problem with that is they can go do whatever else they might want and the parks then, is not only at the fancy of those volunteer groups, but then further at the fancy of the directory to accommodate their interest. So what are the solutions here: I think the local government needs to understand that our parks are a disaster at this point and we need to make them a priority. Sports programs are nice. I think the parks that any child might wander into at any moment, we need to have a basic sense that they are going to be safe and they are going to be child friendly, and they are not going to be a field of mines for which the average parent has to wonder, "gee, should I even let them into that field". I think we start there and then we can have interesting programs on top, I think that's great. But we are taking an incredible resource for this town and we are just degrading it. We are letting it rot due to the lack of ongoing maintenance. You have a car, you have to maintain it. We have a parks system. You don't plant the park and walk away. You don't plant a swing tower and walk away. It makes no sense. From a public health standpoint, wonderful greens in this town would attract more outside activity. We're going to need money. Should we go back to a targeted tax for the

parks? TIF Funds, we're starting to like to set up TIF areas. Well, let's direct some of those funds to the parks. This issue has got to be an obvious part of future budget discussions in this town. Then again, we need to make a commitment to maintain the things that we have started. When putting Kids Kingdom, we need to make a commitment to make sure that it is maintained.

Private Organization: I think that the community is out there and want to be a part of it. They want to be a part of it. They're willing to help, but the problem is that it is piece meal as to how that interaction happens. What I would ask is that while there are some town hall meetings for the Mayor on general subjects, I think for at least until we feel like this problem has really been solved, there needs to be regular community formats specifically related to the parks where people can come in, voice their complaints. I'd like the parks director there. They need to hear it and they need to give real answers to real questions about the main issues in this town. As well, I think the parks director should be charged with the job of on a regular basis, interacting with some of the major volunteer groups and coordinating their efforts, what he knows he already needs. The parks director, on a monthly basis, should take his wish list, and he should be sitting down with those groups and say "I have these duties, we have these problems. These things would be safe and appropriate for you to engage in. What can you help us with?" They should not sit and wait trying to empty the ocean with a bucket, hoping that maybe volunteer will wander up and say "we'll lend a hand". I think at this point the parks are bad enough. We need an independent parks assessment. There have been internal assessments in the past in this town. The city government has hired someone and gotten a report which they have kept to themselves. I think that those kind of mentalities have lead us to where we are. I think an independent parks assessment which is 30 or 40 K, it's a very reasonable cost, it would give us a real sense of where the parks are at, what we need, what we need to maintain them to a standard that we would appreciate.

The security issue, half of this is maintenance, but the other half has been said here tonight, you'd have to turn your back. You're not out there 24 hours a day putting on paint. There is a security issue in these parks. That's why my daughter was stuck. I think we need to make the commitment. While nothing is 100 percent, we could do much better. I think pulling the rangers out with no real help to the police department to turn them into to an asset for patrolling those parks was a mistake.

Short term solutions: I'd like the police department to be given what they need in terms of overtime hours to secure better patrolling for those parks. I would like to see some of these focus-built town hall meetings for the parks issue in this town. I'd like them to be advertised ahead of time. I'd like people in this town to have a voice in this issue. I think the city has got to see parks maintenance as a crisis. I am sorry. I am not so worried about whether the baseball fields look good, when kids can be stuck with a needle. I think that anyone who would argue that those sports programs take precedence over the basic safety of the children in this town, has a problem.

The issue of seasonal hiring: that is the one time where we can play catch up. Three guys hired over the summer is not going to fix the problem we have. There are two problems. That department is under funded twelve months out of the year. The seasonable time is also woefully under staffed. I have had conversations with the folks who have assured me that good faith community efforts do not need to be met with grievances from labor regarding those efforts. So I think at this point moving forward, those volunteer efforts wait only for the parks department to help coordinate them to get us out of the hole we're in. And then finally, all these sandboxes, I

now sit four months later, the city has not done anything with that sandbox near my house. I'm not letting my kids in it. I haven't, and I don't know when I will. On two different incidences, needles can be pulled out of that sandbox, you tell me there is not going to be a third. I have no confidence in that, and that's just my sandbox. What about all the other play areas in this town. Until we figure a way to clean them, I'm not putting my children in them and don't think anyone else should put their children in them either.

Long term, I would like to see an independent parks assessment. I'd like those findings to be open and advertised to the public. I'd like to see a strategic plan with ongoing community involvement and a real commitment to maintenance. I'd like to see the budget reflect the fact that the way things are today, cannot be how it continues. I'd like hear real discussion to either a park ranger program reinstated or dedicated police officers whose beat is the parks. We have the Greenway coming up. Have we even thought about that. There is no squad car that can roll along that Greenway. We're going to need the idea of keeping those Greenways safe as well.

So like I said 3 and half months later, I have a sandbox I won't put my kids in. I drive around the city. I can take pictures like I did the day before I gave my presentation. We have a problem here. I'd like to see it addressed. I applaud Dan McGinn for his efforts, and I would like to see the city council fall in behind him. Thank you. (applause)

Councilman John: I would like to state that was very well thought out and very well presented, and there are a lot of things in there that I sure couldn't disagree with. You make some very valid points.

Councilman Friend: Yes, thank you for your presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASD COMMITTEE:

Nothing scheduled at this time.

CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Re: Resolution C-2011-5

Date: March 14, 2011

Time: 5:20 p.m.

Notify: Donna Crooks

CHAIRMAN FRIEND

Preliminary Tax Phase-In

for Mead Johnson & Co.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Re: Ordinance G-2010-23

Date: March 14, 2011

Time: 5:10 p.m.

Notify: Maria Worthington

CHAIRWOMAN MOSBY

Petition to vacate an alley

between Walnut St. and Locust St.

YOUTH SPORTS GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 --- Room 301--- 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Members: Curt John (Chairperson), Dan McGinn, B.J. Watts, Don Walker

YOUTH LEADERSHIP GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday, March 14, 2011 ---- Room 318 ---- 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Members: B.J. Watts (Chairperson), Dan McGinn, Wendy Bredhold, Dan Adams

City/County Consolidation Meeting: March 14, 2011 – 6: 00 p.m. following the City Council Meeting.

Bruce Ungetheim: Last Tuesday the County Commissioners voted for a smoking ban ordinance in the County. The question I have is does this body intend to bring a resolution back up and if so, when would that happen?

Councilman M^cGinn: John, is that a no action or defeat? It can't be brought up for a year?

John Hamilton: It was a no action and then there is no time limit.

Bruce Ungetheim: The other question I have is if the County passed an ordinance like that, the city being a subset of the county, why isn't that a county-wide ordinance including the city?

John Hamilton: I can answer that. Because the city has its own smoking ordinance. If the city did not address the issue, there would be a possibility that county would apply to the city, but the city has smoking ordinance. They've addressed the issue, so that governs what happens in the city.

Bruce Ungetheim: Okay, but my understanding would be if the state passed a rule, that the county ordinance has to be at least that strict or more stringent. It would then follow, because the county is a subset of the state, it would then follow that if the city passed an ordinance it must be at least as stringent as the county's since the city is a subset of the county.

John Hamilton: The city is not a subset of the county. It is a separate entity under legal and government law.

Wendy Bredhold: There was an editorial that ran in the Courier, and it suggested that if a person were to go into a city bar and complain about the fact that there was smoking going on when it was banned in the county, they might have a valid lawsuit they could take somewhere?

John Hamilton: I disagree with that 100 percent.

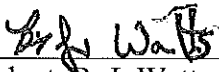
Councilman M^cGinn: I do too.

Councilwoman Bredhold: That's a shame.

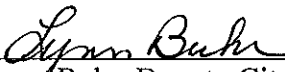
Bruce Ungetheim: Well think about that as you think about consolidation and how they are going to vote on that county-wide and not within the city. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman John moved and Councilman Friend seconded the motion to adjourn.
Voice vote. So ordered. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



President, B. J. Watts



Lynn Buhr, Deputy City Clerk

AMENDED

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS

READING AND AMENDMENT OF MINUTES

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-5 FINANCE FRIEND

A Preliminary Resolution of the City of Evansville Declaring an Economic Revitalization Area for Property Tax Phase-In for Redevelopment/Rehabilitation of Real Property and for the Acquisition and Installation of New Manufacturing Equipment (Mead Johnson & Company)

CONSENT AGENDA

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-2 FINANCE FRIEND

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming authorizing and approving an amendment to the contract between the city of Evansville and Chauffeurs, Teamsters, and Helpers Local Union No. 215 January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012

RESOLUTION C-2011-3 FINANCE (FRIEND) ROBINSON/ADAMS

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana regarding transfer or exchange of property with Vanderburgh County

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-2 FINANCE FRIEND

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming authorizing and approving an amendment to the contract between the city of Evansville and Chauffeurs, Teamsters, and Helpers Local Union No. 215 January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012

RESOLUTION C-2011-3 FINANCE (FRIEND) ROBINSON/ADAMS

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana regarding transfer or exchange of property with Vanderburgh County

RESOLUTION C-2011-4(DOCKET) McGINN, WALKER, ADAMS, BREDHOLD

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana requesting reallocation of Youth Sports Funds to Parks maintenance

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There will not be a City Council Meeting on Monday, March 7, 2011. The next City Council meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Committee Meetings will begin at 5:10 p.m.

Neil Troost - Re: Park Maintenance

ADJOURNMENT

AMENDED

The Honorable Council of the City of Evansville is hereby called to order. Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

✓ M^cGINN

✓ ROBINSON

✓ JOHN

A ✓ MOSBY

✓ FRIEND

✓ WALKER

✓ BREHOLD

✓ ADAMS

✓ WATTS

There being 8 members present, 1 members absent, and 8 members representing a quorum, I hereby declare this session of Common Council officially opened.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This evening the pledge of allegiance will be led by TROOP # 326.

Fellow Councilmen and those in the audience, welcome to the February 28, 2011 meeting of the Common Council.

RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS

Are there any students in the audience who would like to be recognized?

SCHOOL: _____
NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____
NAME: _____

TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

DOROTHY ENGLISH
BRYANT DAWSON
HALEB NICK TERESA S.

CLAIR ERNSBACH JUSTIN JENNY
SARA CLAIR RACHEL TOMMY GRABER

COUNCIL ATTORNEY

This evening John Hamilton is City Council Attorney.

SERGEANT AT ARMS

This evening Officer NONE is our Sergeant at Arms.

READING AND AMENDMENT OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Is there a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting of the Common Council as written?

Councilman JOHN moved and Councilman FRIEND seconded the motion that the minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held February 14, 2011 be approved as written. Voice vote. ✓ So ordered. ✓

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
IN YOUR FEBRUARY 25th PACKET:

- *City Council Agenda for February 28, 2011 meeting.
- *Committee Meeting Schedule.
- *Minutes from the February 14, 2011 City Council Meeting.
- *Legal Aid Society Report for December, 2010 and January, 2011.
- *Weights & Measures Monthly Report January 16, 2011 – February 15, 2011.

ON YOUR DESK THIS EVENING:

- *Resolution C-2011-5.
- *A letter from Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center.

Councilman Truitt moved and Councilman Budhold

seconded the motion to receive, file and make these reports and communications a part of

the minutes of the meeting. Voice vote. ✓ So ordered. ✓

CONSENT AGENDA

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-5

FINANCE

FRIEND

A Preliminary Resolution of the City of Evansville Declaring an Economic Revitalization Area for Property Tax Phase-In for Redevelopment/Rehabilitation of Real Property and for the Acquisition and Installation of New Manufacturing Equipment (Mead Johnson & Company)

Is there a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as written?

Councilman Robinson moved and Councilman John seconded the

Motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as written. Voice vote. ✓ So ordered. ✓

CONSENT AGENDA

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-2

FINANCE

FRIEND

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming authorizing and approving an amendment to the contract between the city of Evansville and Chauffeurs, Teamsters, and Helpers Local Union No. 215 January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012

RESOLUTION C-2011-3

FINANCE(FRIEND)

ROBINSON/ADAMS

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana regarding transfer or exchange of property with Vanderburgh County

FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN FRIEND

Councilman Friend: Mr. President, your Finance Committee met this evening to hear Resolutions C-2011-2 and C-2011-3 and they come forward with a (do pass) (do not pass) recommendation

Councilman John moved and Councilman Friend seconded the motion to adopt the Committee Reports and move these Resolutions to

Third Reading. Voice vote. ✓ So ordered. ✓

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-2

FINANCE

FRIEND

A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Evansville ratifying, confirming authorizing and approving an amendment to the contract between the city of Evansville and Chauffeurs, Teamsters, and Helpers Local Union No. 215 January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012

Is there a motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-2 and call the roll?

Councilman Friend moved and Councilman Walker seconded the motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-2 and call the roll.

ROLL CALL

☒ M^cGINN

☒ ROBINSON

☒ JOHN

☒ MOSBY

☒ FRIEND

☒ WALKER

☒ BREHOLD

☒ ADAMS

☒ WATTS

There being 8 Ayes and 0 Nays, Resolution C-2011-2 is hereby declared
ADOPTED/DENIED.

REGULAR AGENDA

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION C-2011-3 FINANCE(FRIEND) ROBINSON/ADAMS

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana regarding transfer or exchange of property with Vanderburgh County

Is there a motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-3 and call the roll?

Councilman Brehold moved and Councilman John seconded the motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-3 and call the roll.

ROLL CALL

☒ M^cGINN

☒ ROBINSON

☒ JOHN

☒ MOSBY

☒ FRIEND

☒ WALKER

☒ BREHOLD

☒ ADAMS

☒ WATTS

There being 8 Ayes and 0 Nays, Resolution C-2011-3 is hereby declared
ADOPTED/DENIED.

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING REALLOCATION
OF YOUTH SPORTS FUNDS TO PARKS MAINTENANCE**

WHEREAS, the budget for the City of Evansville for the year 2011 currently shows that the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) has been allocated to a program commonly known as Youth Sports, and the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) has been allocated to a program commonly known as Youth Leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Council has received complaints that maintenance in local Parks facilities needs improvement, including a complaint at Sunset Park, and that graffiti and litter plague another Parks facility, The Pigeon Creek Greenway; and

WHEREAS, the level of maintenance in our City Parks is in part due to lack of sufficient funds to employ additional personnel to maintain said Parks and lack of sufficient funds to purchase necessary supplies and equipment to maintain said Parks; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of the City's Parks is important to the taxpayers of the City of Evansville and should take precedence and have priority over the aforementioned Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs and that the funds in the amount of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) should be utilized for the employment of part time employees to clean, repair and maintain our Parks and for the purchase of materials and supplies to maintain our Parks; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Common Council of the City of Evansville to utilize the aforementioned sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) for the employment of part time Parks employees and for the purchase of materials and supplies to maintain our Parks and that said sum should be transferred to the Parks Department for these stated purposes rather than be granted to the Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs and that Sunset Park and the Pigeon Creek Greenway be the first facilities to benefit from these funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Evansville as follows; The City Council recommends and requests that the City Administration take the following actions:

1. That no funds be granted or utilized for Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs for the year 2011.
2. That the funds allocated to Youth Sports and Youth Leadership programs be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the sole and express purpose of employing part time employees and for the purchase of materials and supplies for the maintenance of various Park's facilities and that Sunset Park and the Pigeon Creek Greenway be the first Park's facilities to benefit from these funds.

FILED

FEB 23 2011

Alberta Matlock
CITY CLERK

3. That the balance of the funds be utilized to maintain other Park's facilities as determined by the Staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
4. That the Mayor of the City of Evansville, the Board of Parks Commissioners, the staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Controller of the City of Evansville do what is necessary to achieve these purposes.
5. That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Parks Commissioners.

FILED

FEB 23 2011

Alberta Matlock
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION DOCKET

RESOLUTION C-2011-4(DOCKET) MCGINN, WALKER, ADAMS, BREDHOLD

A Resolution of the City Council of Evansville, Indiana requesting reallocation of Youth Sports Funds to Parks maintenance

DISCUSSION: *Read into Record by McGINN*

\$14,000

WATTS	COLLINS	ROBINSON	WATTS	MCGINN	MCGINN	COLLINS
JOHN	MCGINN	JOHN	MCGINN	WATTS	WATTS	WATTS
JENNY COLLINS	COLLINS	MCGINN	ADAMS	COLLINS	MCGINN	MCGINN
CURT JOHN	MCGINN	COLLINS	JOHN	WATTS	ROBINSON	HAMILTON
COLLINS	COLLINS	MCGINN	ADAMS	ROBINSON	MCGINN	MCGINN
JOHN	MCGINN	CURT JOHN	BREDHOLD	COLLINS	ROBINSON	JOHN
COLLINS	COLLINS	MCGINN	COLLINS	ROBINSON	WATTS	MCGINN
WATTS	JOHN	JOHN	BREDHOLD	COLLINS	ROBINSON	WATTS
COLLINS	COLLINS	MCGINN	WATTS	ROBINSON	WATTS	ROBINSON
MCGINN	WATTS	WATTS	MCGINN	COLLINS	MCGINN	FRIEND
		MCGINN	COLLINS	WATTS	WATTS	WATTS

Is there a motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-4?

TABLE UNTIL

Councilman MCGINN moved and Councilman JOHN seconded the *MARCH 14* motion to adopt Resolution C-2011-4.

OR CALL THE ROLL

ROLL CALL

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MCGINN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROBINSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JOHN
<input type="checkbox"/> MOSBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FRIEND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WALKER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BREDHOLD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADAMS <i>SPOKE</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATTS

There being 7 Ayes and 1 Nays, Resolution C-2011-4 is hereby declared *TABLED*
ADOPTED/DENIED.

BERNIECE TURMENSTEIN
WATTS
TURMENSTEIN
WATTS
TURMENSTEIN
FRIEND
WATTS
TURMENSTEIN

WATTS
BRENDA BURGAWITZ
WATTS
BURGOWITZ
WATTS
BURGOWITZ
WATTS
BREDHOLD

WATTS
CHARLENE BRAKER
WATTS

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There will not be a City Council meeting next Monday, March 7, 2011. The next City Council meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Committee meetings will begin at 5:10 p.m.

Neil Troost - Re: Park Maintenance

JOINT MEETING MARCH 14 after Council Meeting
Public Hearing March 30th or 6:00?
(6:00?)

March 30th
WNIN

HAMILTON
WATTS
HAMILTON
ADAMS
WATTS
ADAMS
WATTS
McGINN
WATTS

BRUCE LINGATHIEN - CONSOLIDATION PLAN
ADAMS
LINGATHEIM
ADAMS
LINGATHEIM
ADAMS
LINGATHEIM
NEIL TROOST - PRESENTATION

JOHN
FRIEND
WATTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASD COMMITTEE:

Nothing scheduled at this time.

CHAIRWOMAN ROBINSON

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Re: Resolution C-2011-5

Date: March 14, 2011

Time: 5:20 p.m.

Notify: Donna Crooks

CHAIRMAN FRIEND

Preliminary Tax Phase-In

for Mead Johnson & Co.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Re: Ordinance G-2010-23

Date: March 14, 2011

Time: 5:10 p.m.

Notify: Maria Worthington

CHAIRWOMAN MOSBY

Petition to vacate an alley

between Walnut St. and Locust St.

May be cancelled pending the outcome of Resolution C-2011-4.

YOUTH SPORTS GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 --- Room 301--- 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Members: Curt John (Chairperson), Dan McGinn, B.J. Watts, Don Walker

YOUTH LEADERSHIP GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:

Monday, March 14, 2011 ---- Room 318 ---- 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Members: B.J. Watts (Chairperson), Dan McGinn, Wendy Bredhold, Dan Adams

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman John moved and Councilman Friend

seconded the motion to adjourn. Voice Vote. ☒ So Ordered. ☐

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

BRUCE UNGATHEIM BREDHOLD UNGATHEIM
HAMILTON HAMILTON CONSOLIDATION 3-18-11
UNGATHEIM BREDHOLD UNGATHEIM 6:00 PM
HAMILTON HAMILTON MCGINN

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

February 28, 2011

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Re: Resolution C-2011-2

Date: February 28, 2011

Time: 5:10 p.m.

Notify: George Fithian/Carol McMichael

CHAIRMAN FRIEND

Approving amendment to the Chauffeurs,
Teamster, and Helpers Union No. 215

Re: Resolution C-2011-3

Date: February 28, 2011

Time: 5:20 p.m.

Notify: Tom Barnett/Carolyn Rusk

Regarding Transfer or Exchange of Property
with Vanderburgh County

March 9, 2011

YOUTH SPORTS GRANT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Date: March 9, 2011 (Wednesday)

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Room: 301 City Council Chambers

March 14, 2011

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Date: March 14, 2011

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Room: 318

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:

Re: Ordinance G-2010-23

Date: March 14, 2011

Time: 5:10 p.m.

Notify: Maria L. Worthington

CHAIRWOMAN MOSBY

Alley vacation Walnut Street and Locust Street
in Donation Enlargement

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Re: Resolution C-2011-5

Date: March 14, 2011

Time: 5:20 p.m.

Notify: Donna Crooks

CHAIRMAN FRIEND

Preliminary Tax Phase-In
for Mead Johnson & Co.

Issues with the Consolidation Plan

We The People
of
Vanderburgh County

1. Voter threshold

The introduction indicates a voter threshold of 50% of all Vanderburgh county residents

This is a change in the constitution of the local government

- It eliminates 2 governments and forms one new government
- It reduces the representation of the citizens

Therefore, the voter threshold needs to be set at 2/3

Reason

- Changing of the US constitution requires a 2/3 vote
- In fact if this were passed Article 11.1.1 legislative action requires a 2/3 majority vote to amend make an amendment to this government

2. Lack of Financial information

Plan preamble states efficiency, simplicity, clarity

However, there is no claim of cost savings

- There is no ROI on this project
- There is no 10 year financial analysis for this plan
- There is no mention of how much has been spend to date (\$108,000?) or how much will be needed to complete this plan

The tax payers deserve to know how this plan affects them and their property taxes before they vote on it

3. Less representation

Current Plan

- There are now 19 representatives for the people of Vanderburgh county and the plan will reduce it to 11. (43% reduction)
- All representation is based on population and none on area

Recommendation- Increase council to 15 members

- 8 council members by area- one from each township
- 7 council members by population every 25,000
- No at large members
 - no connection with voters

4. Too Much Mayoral power

Too many appointments

- Appointments do not require approval of consolidated council

One legal council appointed by Mayor for the entire government – too much power

- Recommendation
 - Council members should lead the various boards
 - Legal Council should be separate for Mayor and consolidated council and be issued for bid

5. Election Issues

- All elections at the same time
 - Elections should be staggered to minimize transition issues
- No term limits on office holders
 - Mayor should have same term limits as the governor and president
 - 8 years
 - Council should also have term limits
 - Recommend 12 years

6. Unfair tax proposal

- Financial analysis indicates non urban property taxes will go up \$0.28 per \$100 NAV
 - This means an additional \$280 for a \$100,000 house
- However , there are no additional services provided with this increase

This is unacceptable and needs to be corrected

7. Darmstadt issue

Section 1.4 indicates that Darmstadt is not included in the plan

However,

- Darmstadt will pay general services taxes
- Will vote for a council member
- Will vote for mayor
- Can run for Council or Mayor

Therefore, Darmstadt is included in this plan

By state law all groups included in the plan must approve this plan independently

- Indiana Code -IC36-1.5-4-32

8. New plan Annexation rules

Section 7.4.1 indicates any area can be "annexed" into the urban area by a request of either the mayor or the council.

- No vote of the affected people is required

This is unacceptable and must be changed

9. Partisan Elections

Section 1.5 of the plan calls for partisan elections

- This is not in the best interest of the community

Recommendation -Non Partisan elections

Reason – better working relationships

- George Washington in his farewell address warned the nation of the evils of separating into parties
- Mayor Abramson of Louisville stated the biggest mistake Louisville made in its consolidation was partisan elections
- It is difficult enough to get two parties to agree on an issue and soon there will be three

10. Elected offices retained

- The plan indicated there are 9 elected county offices that will be retained
- The Sheriff will assume all law enforcement duties in the county
- How and who do these 9 elected county offices report to in the new government?
- Does the Mayor set the budget for these retained offices?

Conclusion

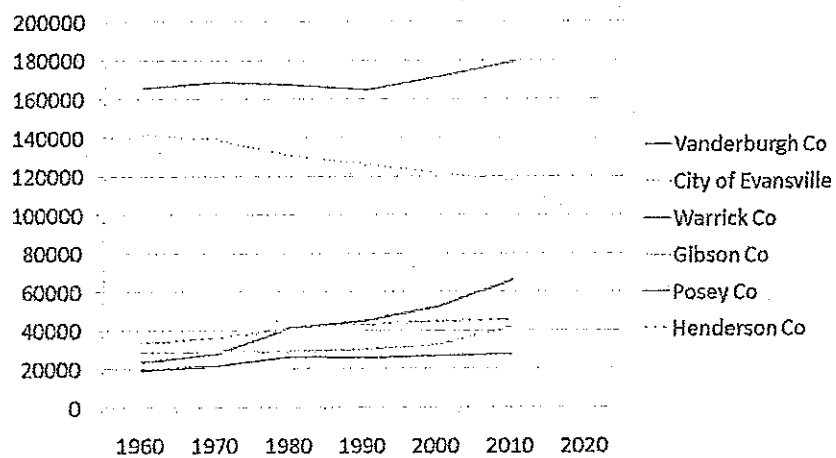
This Plan has a lot of unanswered questions

There is no clear reason why we should continue this effort

- We got so caught up in whether we could consolidate that we have not stopped to consider whether we should consolidate

We strongly request you reconsider why we should consolidate and is it really in the best interest of the all the residents or just a select few

Real Reason for consolidation





News from **The New Evansville Arena Project**

For Immediate Release
February 15, 2010

Contact: John J. Kish
Arena Project Director
(812) 435-0973

VENUWORKS SELECTED TO MANAGE NEW EVANSVILLE ARENA

EVANSVILLE – The Evansville Redevelopment Commission (ERC) voted unanimously this morning to direct Arena Project Director John J. Kish to begin negotiations with VenuWorks for management and coordinated operations of the new Evansville Arena, which will open this November. VenuWorks, based in Ames, Iowa, manages 36 facilities in 17 communities.

“I am pleased that the Redevelopment Commission heeded the recommendation to select VenuWorks to manage the new Evansville Arena,” said Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “VenuWorks has a proven track record of successfully opening new facilities in communities similar to Evansville, and I believe they have what it takes to help the City make the new Evansville Arena a great success,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

The decision to recommend VenuWorks to the ERC was made by a non-partisan committee that, according to Kish, unanimously agreed that VenuWorks was the best choice to manage and operate the new Evansville Arena. “The committee was particularly impressed by the commitment and involvement from VenuWorks’ senior management, as well as the company’s focus on mid-sized communities,” Kish said.

Steven L. Peters, president of VenuWorks, is enthusiastic about the opportunity to manage Evansville’s new arena. “This community is building a wonderful new facility that holds tremendous promise for the future of Evansville. We are honored that VenuWorks was selected to manage the arena and we will utilize our experience and resources to ensure it is a success.”

The new Evansville arena will be the region’s center for sports and entertainment, designed to host basketball, hockey, concerts, exhibitions, and shows for audiences as large as 11,000.

###

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF EVANSVILLE, INC.

Non-City/County/United Way Funds Report of December 31, 2010

<u>A. FUND BALANCES</u>	<u>12/31/2009</u>	<u>12/31/2010</u>
1. Adoption/Guardianship Fund (AD/GD)	\$4,946.00	\$10,422.80
2. Publication/Litigation Fund (PUB/LIT)	5,777.09	5,724.59
3. PUB/LIT Receivable	562.49	430.00
4. IN Civil Legal Aid Fund (ICLAF)	81,827.35	107,076.22
5. U.W. Donor Designations (UWDD)	27,478.48	28,846.99
6. Miscellaneous Income & Interest (M&I)	9,999.56	9,073.91
7. Client trust account	10.09	218.09
8. Petty Cash	<u>147.59</u>	<u>175.79</u>
TOTAL	\$130,748.65	\$ 161,968.39

B. FUND LOCATION

1. MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$ 134,160.04
(ICLAF/UWDD/PUB/LIT)	
Bank of Evansville # 161155 0 (1.25% interest per month)	
Signers: Sue Hartig, Kevin Gibson, Garvin Senn	
2. SAVINGS ACCOUNT	6,903.13
(UWDD, M&I)	
Integra Bank #50007550 (.0044 int)	
Signers: Sue Hartig, Kevin Gibson, Garvin Senn, & Scott Wylie	
3. CHECKING ACCOUNTS	20,299.43
A. Old National Bank #401082482	
(PUB/LIT)	
Signers: Sue Hartig, Kevin Gibson, Garvin Senn	
& Scott Wylie	\$1,724.59
B. Integra Bank #7800239050	
(ICLAF, UWDD, AD/GD , & M&I)	
Signers: Sue Hartig, Kevin Gibson, Garvin Senn,	
& Scott Wylie	18,356.75
C. Integra Bank #7800281904	
(Client Trust Fund)	
Signer: Sue Hartig, Kevin Gibson, Garvin Senn	218.09
4. PUB/LIT RECEIVABLES	430.00
5. PETTY CASH	<u>175.79</u>
TOTAL	\$161,968.39

C. FUND DESCRIPTION:

1. AD/GD

Created in 2009 when Child Protective Services would no longer do guardian ad litem reports at no cost to us in guardianships and home studies in adoptions and we had to begin to pay for them. Funds can also be used for costs of fingerprinting and obtaining criminal history checks for petitioners in guardianships and adoptions. No repayment by the client is contemplated. Fund sources were an Evansville Bar Association grant, Law Day Auction proceeds, Craig Family foundation, Old National Bank, and Vectren.

Beginning balance	\$10,461.00
Law Day 2010 deposit	790.00
Less client expenditures	<u>-828.20</u>
Balance (INTEGRA CHECKING)	\$10,422.80

2. & 3. PUB/LIT and PUB/LIT RECEIVABLES

Created in 1987 with a \$4,000 donor designated grant from the Junior League of Evansville plus a United Way allocation of \$1,000 in 1994. Used to pay publication costs, costs of DNA testing, and other litigation expenses. Client is asked to pay funds back if possible.

Start up funds	\$ 5,000.00
+ Cumulative Interest earned	2,112.55
- Cumulative loans made	16,211.97
+ Cumulative loans repaid	11,944.45
Receivables	430.00
Loans made = 138	
Cumulative write offs	<u>3,837.52</u>
Balance (ONB CHECKING + 4K in BOE MM)	\$5,724.59

4. INDIANA CIVIL LEGAL AID FUND (ICLAF)

Started in 1997 from Indiana Legislature through the Indiana Supreme Court, board designated to create reserves and fund special projects not funded by the City/County/United Way operating budget. (INTEGRA CHECKING + BOE MM)
Total receipts since 1997 are \$275,246.28.

YEAR	BEGIN BAL	ICLAF INCOME	+ INT	- EXPENDED	END BAL
2006	\$ 63,810.63	\$18,663.53	\$1,895.65	\$15,761.66	\$68,608.15
2007	\$ 68,608.15	\$20,964.17	\$2,400.02	\$11,676.29	\$80,296.05
2008	\$ 80,296.05	\$25,149.36	\$1,140.10	\$30,799.53	\$81,422.88
2009	\$ 81,422.88	\$26,929.56	\$1,433.02	\$19,707.76	\$90,077.70
2010	\$ 90,077.70	\$26,942.36	\$2,468.01	\$12,411.85	\$107,076.22

5. UNITED WAY DONOR DESIGNATIONS (UWDD)

2006	\$3,572.43	
2007	1,996.37	
2008	2,529.75	
2009	1,717.65	
2010	1,393.51	
Current Balance (Integra Savings + BOE MM)		\$28,846.99

6. MISCELLANEOUS INCOME & INTEREST (M&I) \$ 9,073.91

7. CLIENT TRUST ACCOUNT \$218.09

Attorney ethics require funds obtained from clients or received for clients be segregated from all other law firm funds and used for no other purpose. We must keep a balance in this account and should place it at an institution paying into Indiana IOLTA.

8. PETTY CASH \$175.79

TOTAL \$161,968.39

D. FUND DETAILS**1. MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT**

Bank of Evansville (Account #1611550)

ICLAF	\$104,359.60	
UWDD	25,000.00	
PUB/LIT	4,000.00	
Plus interest	800.44	
Ending Balance		\$ 134,160.04

2. SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Integra (Account # 50007550)

Beginning balance	\$ 6,511.72	
Plus interest	1.70	
Plus UWDD	389.71	
Ending Balance		6,903.13
UWDD	\$ 3,846.99	
M&I	3,056.14	

3. CHECKING ACCOUNTS

A. PUB/LIT Old National Bank (Account #401082482):

Beginning balance	\$ 1,517.09	
Less expenditures	50.00	
Plus client loan payments	257.50	
Ending Balance		1,724.59
Receivables	430.00	430.00

B. Integra (Account # 7800239050)

Beginning balance	\$ 37,332.70	
Plus Board Donations	250.00	
Plus Board Lunches	90.00	

Plus Client Repayment	150.00	
Less Expenditures	2,465.95	
Less Transfer to Money Market	17,000.00	
Ending Balance		18,356.75
ICLAF	\$ 2,716.62	
AD/GD	10,422.80	
M&I	5,217.33	

C. Client Trust Account Integra (Account #7800281904): **218.09**

4. PETTY CASH

Beginning balance	169.55	
Plus income	6.24	
Ending Balance		<u>175.79</u>

TOTAL		\$161,968.39
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E. FUND PLACEMENT

BANK OF EVANSVILLE		
MONEY MARKET ACCT (#1611550)		134,160.04

INTEGRA		
Savings (#500077550)	\$6,903.13	
Checking (#7800239050)	18,356.75	
Trust Account Checking (#7800281904)	218.09	
TOTAL		25,477.97

OLD NATIONAL BANK		
Checking (#401082482)		1,724.59

CASH		
PETTY CASH		175.79

RECEIVABLES		
PUB/LIT		<u>430.00</u>

TOTAL		\$ <u>161,968.39</u>
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Spending an average of \$33,000 per month for operations, this is 4.9 months of reserves.

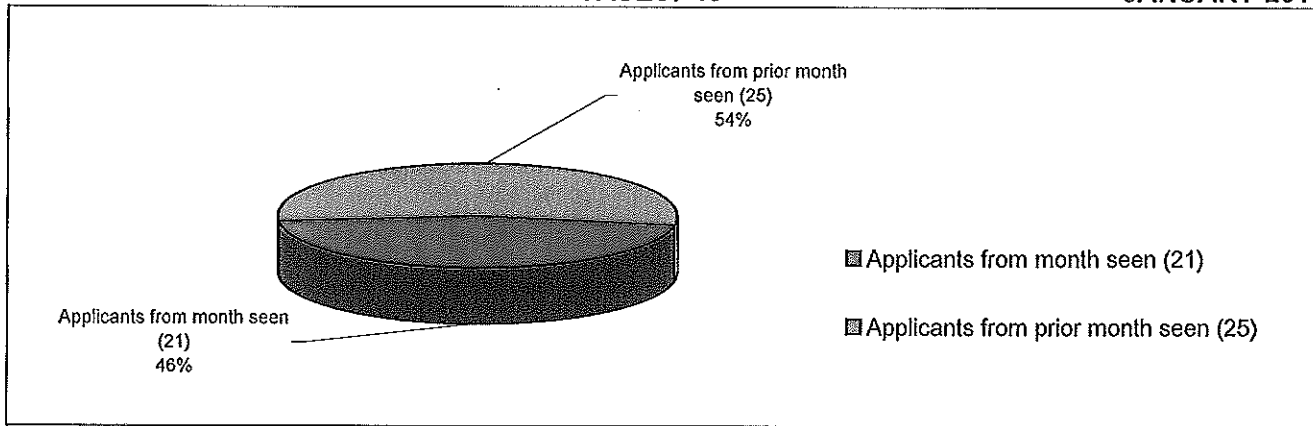
	MONTH	YEAR
I. APPLICATIONS TAKEN.....	152	152
A. Applications rejected.....	104	104
1. over income / assets.....	36	36
2. case type.....	16	16
3. incomplete application.....	31	31
4. conflict of interest.....	12	12
5. out of county matter.....	2	2
6. no legal issue.....	7	7
7. residency requirements not met.....	0	0
B. Applications accepted.....	48	48
C. Applicants who did not follow through.....	27	
1. did not make appointment.....	13	
2. did not keep appointment.....	14	
D. Applicants from month seen.....	21	21
E. Applicants from prior month seen.....	25	25
II. NEW CASES ACCEPTED.....	46	46
A. Nature of cases accepted		
1. family.....	35	35
a.) divorce.....	8	8
b.) support.....	4	4
c.) custody.....	14	14
d.) visitation.....	5	5
e.) paternity.....	0	0
f.) juvenile.....	0	0
g.) adoptions.....	0	0
h.) guardianships.....	4	4
2. housing.....	9	9
3. health.....	0	0
4. consumer/finance.....	0	0
5. income maintenance.....	2	2
6. miscellaneous.....	0	0
B. Employment		
1. employed.....	2	2
2. unemployed.....	44	44
C. Gender		
1. male.....	11	11
2. female.....	35	35
D. Race		
1. Caucasian.....	38	38
2. African American.....	8	8
3. Hispanic.....	0	0
4. Other.....	0	0
E. Age		
1. 0 - 17.....	1	1
2. 18 - 25.....	12	12
3. 26 - 35.....	14	14
4. 36 - 55.....	15	15
5. 56 +.....	4	4
F. Zip code		
1. 47708.....	2	2
2. 47710.....	14	14
3. 47711.....	4	4
4. 47712.....	6	6
5. 47713.....	4	4
6. 47714.....	12	12
7. 47715.....	3	3
8. 47720.....	1	1
9. 47725.....	0	0
10. Other.....	0	0

	MONTH	YEAR
G. Education		
1. no GED or no high school graduation.....	10	10
2. GED or high school graduation.....	18	18
3. training past GED/ high school.....	18	18
H. Number Impacted		
1. Children.....	53	53
2. Adults.....	52	52
III. CASES CLOSED.....	25	25
A. Case disposition		
1. counsel and advise.....	16	16
2. settle without litigation.....	0	0
3. settle with litigation.....	6	6
4. agency decision.....	0	0
5. court decision.....	3	3
6. other.....	0	0
B. Length of time file was open		
1. less than 30 days.....	12	12
2. 30 - 90 days.....	4	4
3. 91 - 180 days.....	7	7
4. 181 - 364 days.....	2	2
5. 1 to 2 years.....	0	0
6. more than 2 years.....	0	0
C. Nature of cases closed		
1. family.....	18	18
a.) divorce.....	3	3
b.) support.....	2	2
c.) custody.....	11	11
d.) visitation.....	1	1
e.) paternity.....	0	0
f.) juvenile.....	0	0
g.) adoptions.....	0	0
h.) guardianships.....	1	1
2. housing.....	6	6
3. health.....	0	0
4. consumer/finance.....	0	0
5. income maintenance.....	1	1
6. miscellaneous.....	0	0
IV. CASES PENDING ON FEBRUARY 1, 2011....	298	
A. Cases previously pending.....	277	
B. New cases accepted.....	46	
C. Cases closed.....	25	
D. Nature of cases pending	0	
1. family.....	279	
a.) divorce.....	37	
b.) support.....	18	
c.) custody.....	59	
d.) visitation.....	16	
e.) paternity.....	0	
f.) juvenile.....	0	
g.) adoptions.....	5	
h.) guardianships.....	144	
2. housing.....	15	
3. health.....	0	
4. consumer/finance.....	0	
5. income maintenance.....	4	
6. miscellaneous.....	0	
V. APPLICANTS REFERRED TO VLP.....	12	12

NEW CLIENTS SEEN

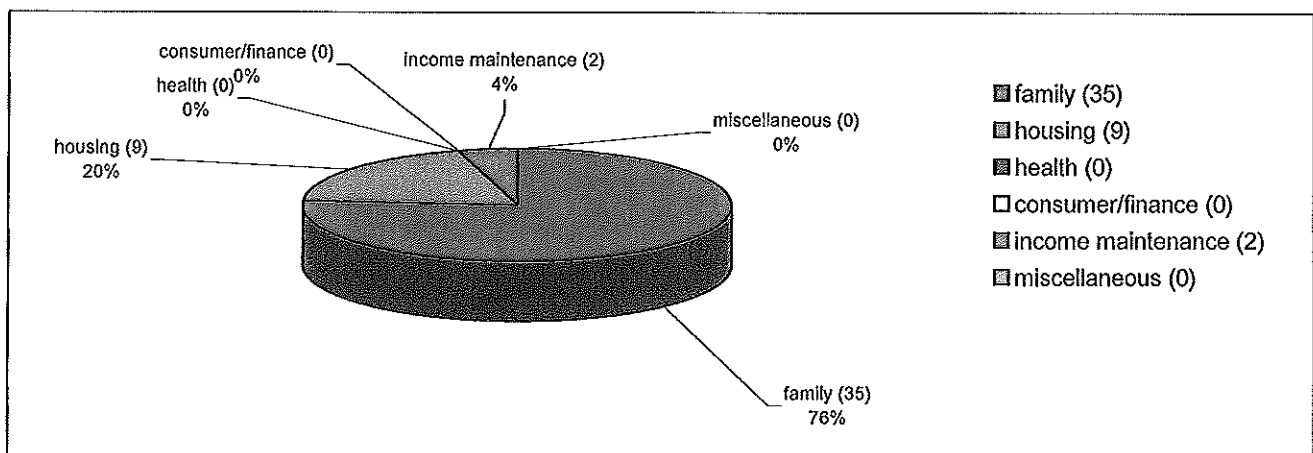
CASES: 46

JANUARY 2011



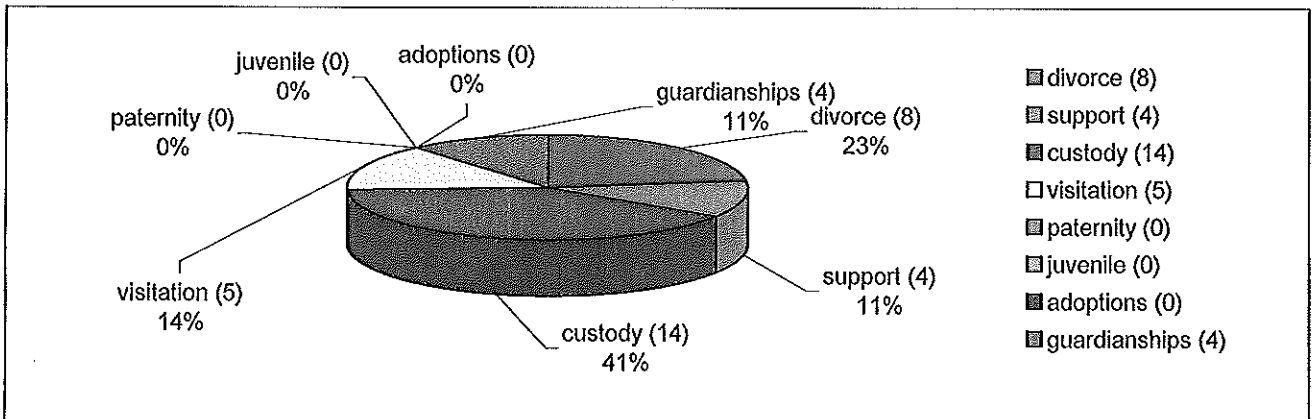
NATURE OF CASES ACCEPTED

CASES: 46



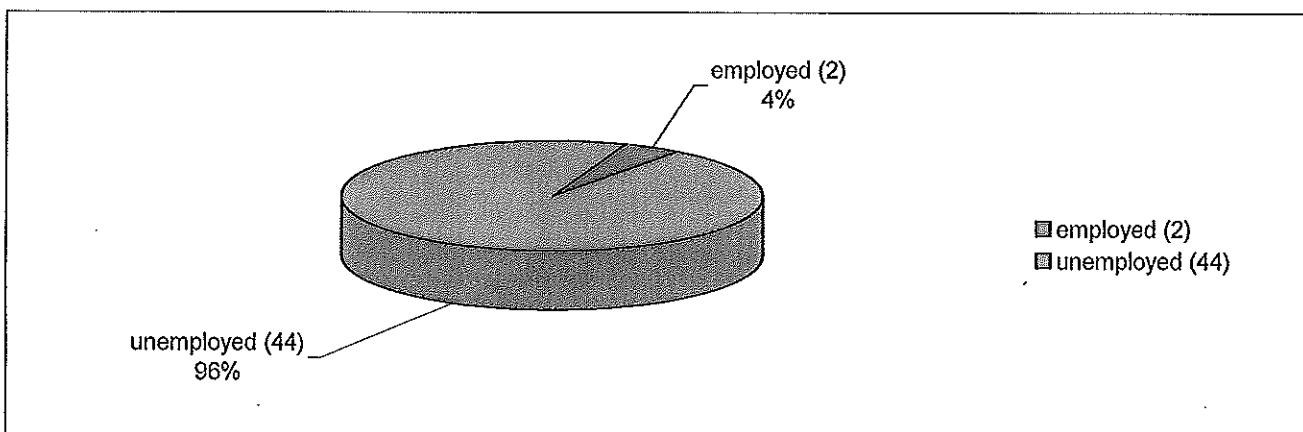
FAMILY CASES ACCEPTED

CASES: 35



CLIENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

CASES: 46



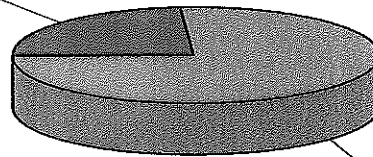
CLIENT GENDER

CASES:

46

JANUARY 2011

male (11)
24%



female (35)
76%

■ male (11)

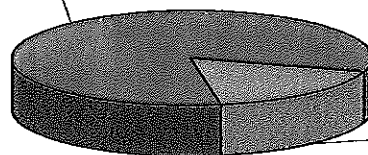
■ female (35)

CLIENT RACE

CASES:

46

Caucasian (38)
83%



African American (8)
17%

Other (0)
0%

Hispanic (0)
0%

■ Caucasian (38)

■ African American (8)

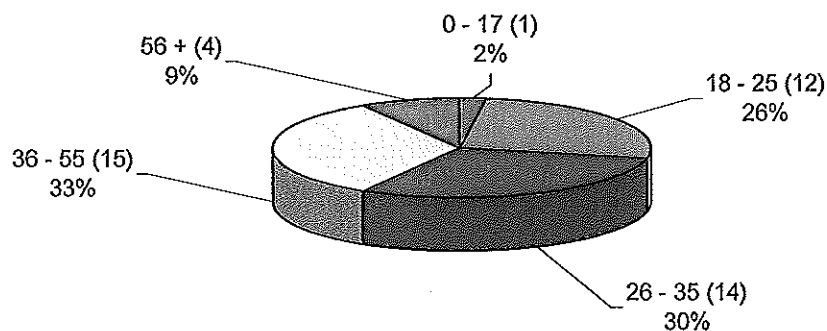
■ Hispanic (0)

□ Other (0)

CLIENT AGE

CASES:

46



■ 0 - 17 (1)

■ 18 - 25 (12)

■ 26 - 35 (14)

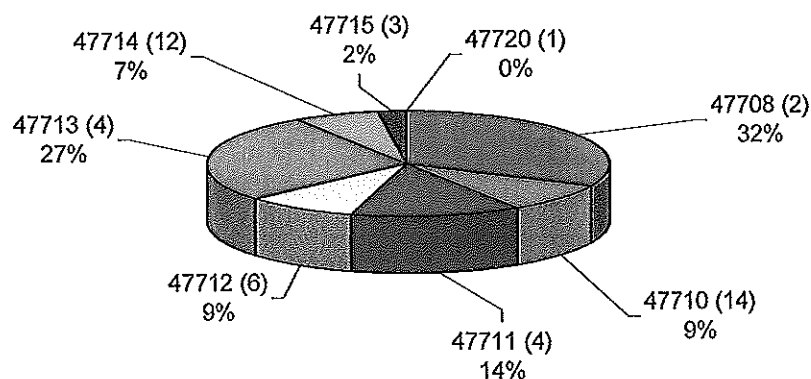
□ 36 - 55 (15)

■ 56 + (4)

ZIP CODES

CASES:

46



■ 47708 (2)

■ 47710 (14)

■ 47711 (4)

□ 47712 (6)

■ 47713 (4)

■ 47714 (12)

■ 47715 (3)

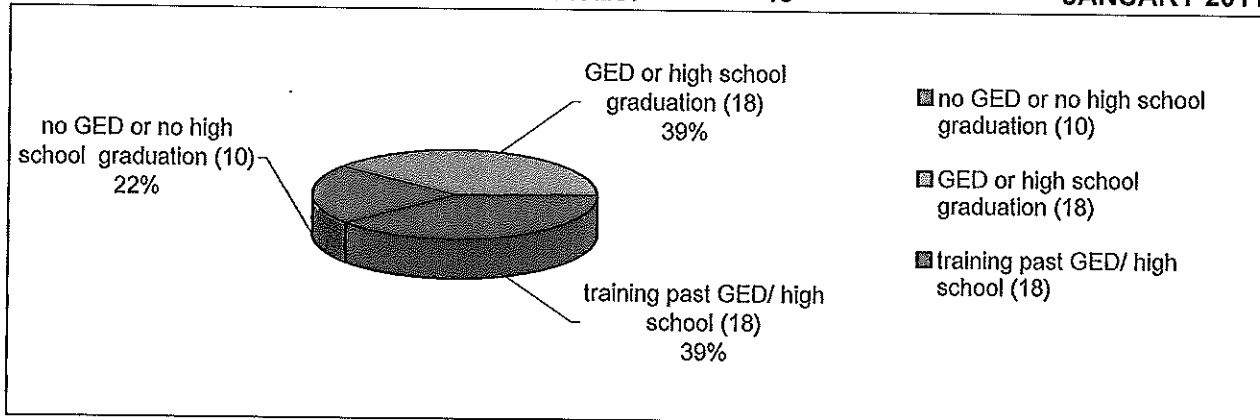
■ 47720 (1)

EDUCATION

CASES:

46

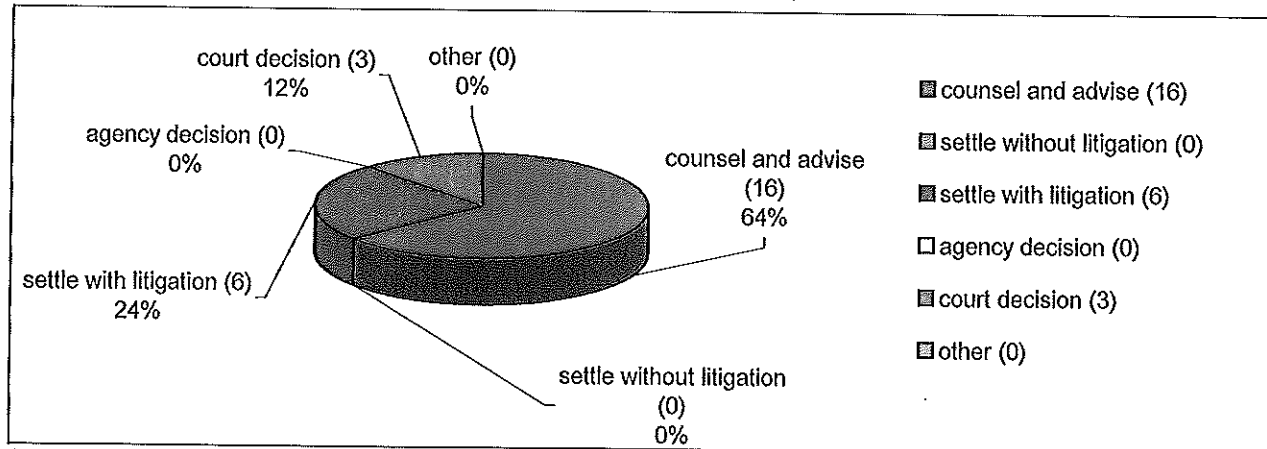
JANUARY 2011



CLOSED CASES DISPOSITION

CASES:

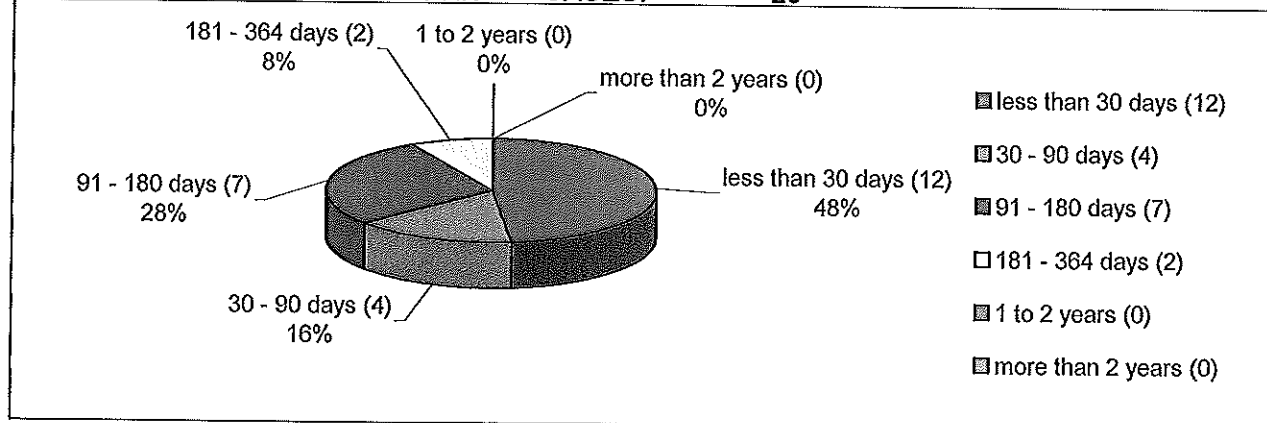
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LENGTH OF TIME FILE WAS OPEN

CASES:

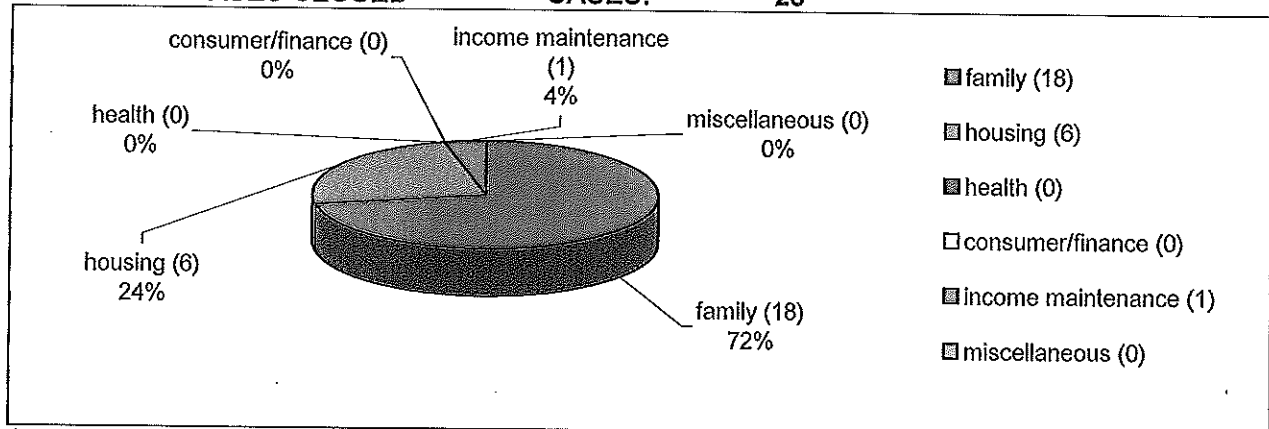
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NATURE OF CASES CLOSED

CASES:

25

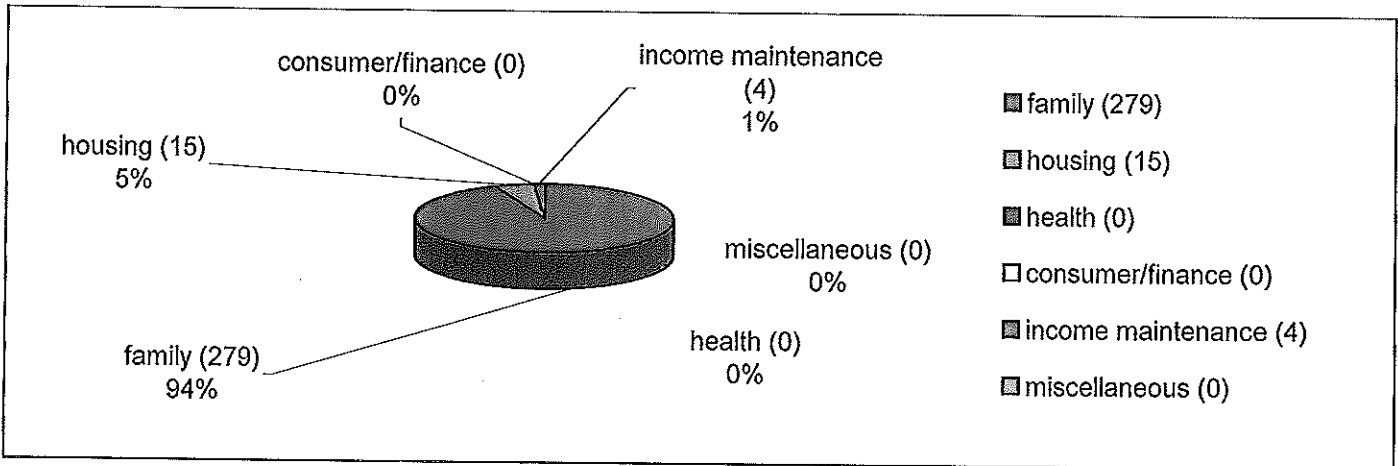


NATURE OF CASES PENDING

CASES:

298

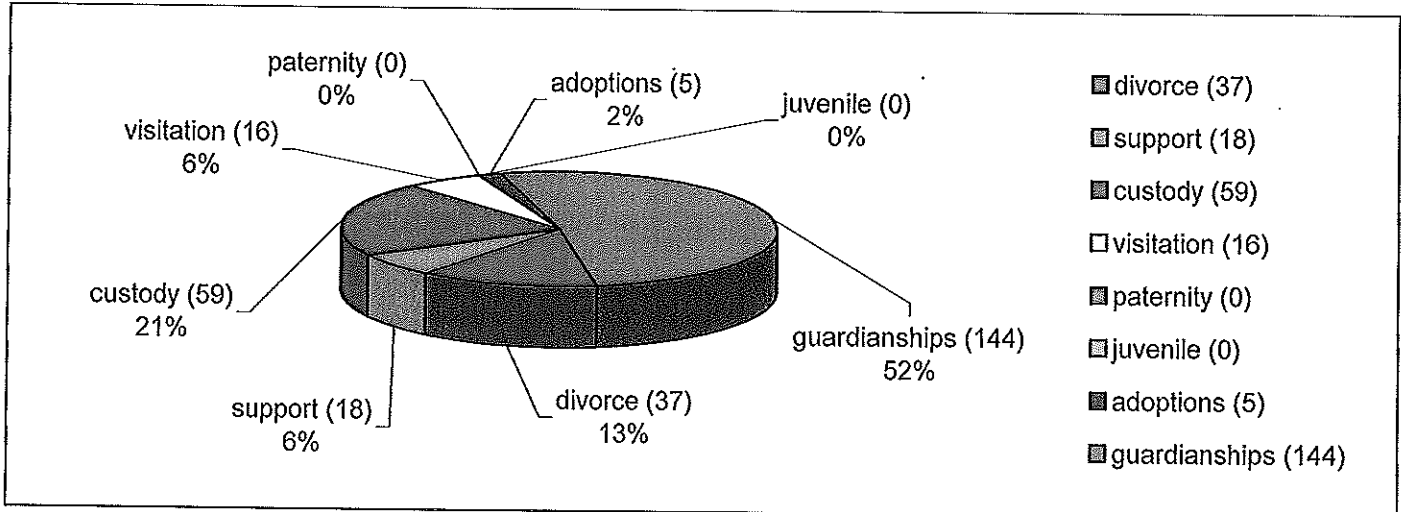
JANUARY 2011



FAMILY CASES PENDING

CASES:

279



APPLICATIONS REJECTED

CASES:

104

